



JPRS Report

Near East & South Asia

Near East & South Asia

JPRS-NEA-88-036

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23 May 1988

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**Henchakian, Dashnak, Ramkavar Joint
Communique**

46050010 Paris GAMK in Armenian 25 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] We, the three Armenian national parties have combined our efforts in order to bring about a fundamental resolution to political issues.

The demonstration scheduled for 26 March will be the first expression of this collective will. The demand made by the Armenian of Gharabagh to be united with the motherland is a political issue and so the three national parties, fully aware of the need to defend the highest interests of the nation, wish to forestall particular and distracting activities so as to undertake joint initiatives.

The Azerbaijanis, with the cooperation of their protector and kinsman Turkey, consider the reestablishment of justice as a concession. They have made aggressive pronouncements that culminated unfortunately in massacres whose purpose is to halt the progress of democracy in the Soviet Union and through state terrorism to force the Armenian people to leave its native Gharabagh and emigrate.

The Social Democratic Henchakian party, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and the Popular Liberal party present a united front to the Armenian and foreign public opinions in order to fight against and prevent the trampling of our human and national rights.

To attain these goals, contacts are to be established with political parties and circles, independently of the 26 March demonstration.

By the present communique, we Armenian political parties officially declare that we support the demand of the Armenian population of Gharabagh, so that it may reunite with the motherland Soviet Armenia, in accordance with the dispositions on self-determination of peoples laid down in the Constitution of the Soviet Union.

We are also confident that the appropriate Soviet authorities have already undertaken the punishment of the perpetrators of anti-Armenian actions that occurred in various parts of Azerbaijan.

We will multiply our initiatives until a positive resolution of the grave crisis in Gharabagh is reached and we hope that all members of our nation will support us fully in order to justify the minimum expectations that our brothers and sisters in far away Gharabagh have placed on us.

Long live the inalienable rights of the Armenian People.

Social Democratic Henchakian Party; Armenian Revolutionary Federation; Popular Liberal Party.

12364/9274

REGIONAL

Joint Arab Investment Company Discussed in Jeddah

45000076 Cairo EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English
4 May 88 p 3

[Text] Arab businessmen and representatives for financing bodies as well as funds will participate in a joint meeting to be held in Jeddah on 25 and 26 May to discuss preparations for establishing the first Arab joint investment company with a capital of \$5 billion. Many Arab leaders expressed appreciation for establishing such a company which will work in the fields of industry, trade, agriculture, construction, and maritime transport. Moreover, amendments were made to laws governing investments in many Arab countries to attract Arab capital and provide a more suitable atmosphere for establishing more joint projects. Arab economic sources in Cairo said that the recent amendments to laws governing investment, which guarantee the mobility of capital and insure funds against confiscation, were the reasons which spurred Arab businessmen to establish such a giant company. The idea of establishing the company reflects the development in the investment awareness of Arab investors, especially after the severe fall in shares rates in the New York stock market last October, which led to losses estimated at billions of dollars of Arab capital invested abroad. The idea also expresses the development of the national awareness of the Arab private sector which is expected to play a more important role in Arab development.

Islamic Bank Approves New Trade Financing Program

44040184b Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
13 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Dubayy—AL-BAYAN—The Islamic Development Bank has approved a new long-term trade financing schedule for member countries, with repayment terms of more than five years, in order to strengthen economic integration among the Islamic countries. In another development, at the end of last year, the amount authorized to finance the Bank's operations rose to 6.134 billion Islamic dinars. (One Islamic dinar is equal to one special drawing right, which is valued at approximately \$1.30.)

This was explained to AL-BAYAN yesterday by Muhammad Khalfan Kharbash, chief of the investments department in the Ministry of Finance and Industry, who was a member of the UAE delegation (headed by Ministry Undersecretary Nasir al-Nuways) to the meetings of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank, held in Tunis from 7 to 8 March.

Muhammad Khalfan Kharbash said that the Bank's annual report approved by the Board of Governors indicated that total ordinary operations came to 1.606 billion Islamic dinars at the end of the year, with 557

million for loans, 268 million for contributions to project capital, 525 million for equipment leasing, 208 million for futures, 7 million for profit sharing operations and 41 million for technical assistance.

The chief of the investment department in the Ministry of Finance and Industry said that trade financing operations amounted to 5.961 billion Islamic dinars, while assistance (gifts) amounted to 178 million Islamic dinars.

Withdrawals constituted 4.5 billion dinars; of this amount, 241 projects were financed, and there were 101 technical assistance operations. Kharbash pointed out that 80 percent of foreign trade financing operations went for operations among member countries and 20 percent went for operations between member and non-member countries.

The Board of Governors also approved a budget and audit for the year 1407 A.H. and ratified a cooperation agreement between the bank and the Cooperation and Compensation Fund of the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS].

It was also decided that the 13th annual meeting would be held in Morocco with Morocco as chairman of the Board of Governors.

9882

Leaders Call for International Oil Pipeline Network

44040184a Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
18 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Baghdad—WAM—The UAE called upon the fourth Arab energy conference, which concluded yesterday in Baghdad, to study a project to link the neighboring Arab countries with a natural gas pipeline network and to link electrical networks in these countries.

In a paper delivered at the conference in "The UAE Energy Budget," the UAE stressed the importance of a unified, comprehensive energy budget for the Arab countries and the importance of providing the necessary support to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) for success of the project, which would give a clear picture of the energy situation in the Arab world as far as production, consumption and available capacity.

Deputy Undersecretary of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Nasir al-Sharhab, head of the UAE delegation, asked in the paper that a unified, long-term Arab energy strategy be drawn up.

He explained that the desired strategy would have as its goals coordinated oil and gas processing and marketing, diversification of energy sources, exchange of expertise

and scientific and practical experience in this field, guidance and determination of production in keeping with development needs and limiting energy consumption.

This strategy would also seek to take advantage of the services of existing joint venture Arab companies, giving them priority with regard to regional projects. The strategy also aims to raise the level of expertise of Arab cadres by placing the utmost importance on training and to place emphasis on transfer of technology.

The paper also called for the UAE to continue its efforts to improve its future energy situation by completing linkage of electric energy stations to include all electric stations in the country in one network covering all areas of the country, particularly those that are isolated.

The paper explained that linkage of electric stations would eliminate the need for small stations with low output and save wasted fuel at scattered stations.

The paper also called for adoption at the local level of a new pricing policy for consumption of electricity by basing the price on the segment of society, whereby the price of a unit would increase with increased consumption. This would limit wasteful consumption of electricity.

The paper stressed the importance of cooperation among concerned government departments to adopt new construction techniques that are the most up to date and consume energy wisely.

The paper also emphasized the fact that the UAE is striving to strengthen and develop its relations with regional and international petroleum and energy organizations, primarily the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

In this regard, the paper referred to the cooperation between the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and OPEC, which led to study and development of an energy budget for the UAE.

As part of its cooperation with OPEC, the UAE has also taken part in joint Arab projects beneficial to all Arab countries. Among the most noteworthy of these projects are: the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company in Kuwait, the Arab Petroleum Investment Company in Saudi Arabia, the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company in Bahrain, the Arab Engineering Consultancy Company in Abu Dhabi, the Arab Petroleum Training Institute in Baghdad, and the Arab Company for Petroleum Services in Libya.

The paper revealed as part of the UAE's cooperation on the international level its unusual operation with the Japanese New Energy Development Organization (NEDO) to build the first experimental desalinization station using solar power as a new energy source.

9882

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Abu-Mazin Surveys Soviet Attitudes, Regional Issues

44040203 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
15 Apr 88 pp 34-35

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, member of PLO's Supreme Executive Committee: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-HAWADITH, 'An International Conference Will Not Be Convened Without the PLO; The Uprising Will Continue With a Rational Approach in Accordance With a Plan That Has Been Thought Through and Calculated;'" in Riyadh; date of interview not specified]

[Excerpts] Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO's Higher Executive Committee, was one of the Arab League's envoys to a meeting that was held in Tunisia late last month to discuss reports submitted by the seven-member ministerial committee and Arab League committees. These reports were about contacts with international and Arab figures that members of these committees made to ask for support for the popular Palestinian uprising.

AL-HAWADITH met Abu-Mazin in Riyadh where it interviewed him about a number of significant issues which have to do with the Palestinian question.

[Question] To what extent has the uprising produced new international and Arab assumptions?

[Answer] Let me first of all salute those who lost their lives in the uprising. So far, more than 200 persons have lost their lives. In addition, thousands of children, women, and old men have been wounded. Let me salute all our heroic people in the occupied land. It is because of their steadfastness and their brave defiance of death that the uprising has reached further, matured more, and gained more power and breadth with each passing day. It has actually created a new situation on all international and Arab levels and even inside Israel itself. The uprising has also created a new Arab climate and brought about the Arab solidarity which is required for a sense of pan-Arab unity. Arabs everywhere are now dealing with the Palestinian question in a manner that is more positive and more effective. It is hoped that Arab countries' support for the Palestinian people will change and become compatible with their people's feelings and the crucial nature of those events which are taking place inside the occupied territory.

At the present time rhetoric, media talk, and expressions of support, condemnation, or censure will not suffice. The time has come for talking seriously and becoming engaged in advanced activism so that this uprising can come to fruition, succeed, and enable the Palestinian people to determine their legitimate rights in a homeland

that has its own identity and sovereignty. More than any time before, America must understand that the time has come to find a just solution which ignores neither the Palestinian people's right to determine their destiny nor the people's representative. Despite the uprising, however, and despite international pressures, the United States has so far been ignoring the PLO and the people's right to determine their own destiny.

[Question] Do you think the uprising will continue to be as peaceful as it was when it started despite the fact that Israeli authorities have seriously stepped up their activities?

[Answer] No matter how hard the Israelis try, the rational approach with which the uprising started will continue. Every step that will be taken in the future will be taken in accordance with a plan that has been thought through and calculated. The Israelis want us to pursue another course so they can continue their poisonous propaganda which all media agencies in the world are always ready to publish. In their propaganda Israelis claim that Palestinians are terrorists whose actions are nothing more than chaos and rebellion. They say Palestinian action is not a universal revolution against their aggressive practices and their fraudulent presence.

That is why leaders of the uprising inside the occupied territory take no actions whatsoever to step up the level of activity until they have consulted with PLO leaders and obtained their approval. It is our opinion that the uprising ought to continue in this manner as long as possible over the largest possible area. Any escalation in the level of activity ought to be relative to the nature of the uprising. That is, it should proceed one step at a time and move in waves from one town to another. The uprising ought to start in Gaza, for example, move to Hebron, Ramallah, Janin, Tulkarm, and then return to Gaza, and so on.

A change in the relative nature of the uprising also involves many measures that have to be taken within the Palestinians' ranks. For example, some policemen and appointed mayors may be induced to resign. This would undoubtedly be a gradual change in the relative nature of the uprising. I believe that the uprising will take a long time, moving at this pace in a framework that is calculated and rational. It is both essential and fundamental that the peaceful uprising be protracted because the Palestinian people are defenseless, resisting the occupation with the means that are available to them. However, the time has not yet come for talking about using other means in other steps.

[Question] Does the PLO have specific suggestions to make to the next emergency Arab Summit meeting?

[Answer] If a summit meeting is convened, the PLO will, of course, present a complete picture of the uprising. It will tell the meeting about the survival of the uprising and how it can be supported. So far, however, no

agreement has been reached on a date and a place for that meeting. But if a summit meeting is held, it will be like the Fes Summit meeting. That is, it will define the principal features of Arab policy at present and in the coming stage, and it will do so in a manner that is unambiguous and responsible. In addition, the summit meeting will lay down the practical bases for providing the uprising with real support.

[Question] And what about Arab support? Do you think this support is what it should be?

[Answer] No, not at all. Arab support is not at all what it should be. The Palestinian people are fully mobilized now. Approximately 1.5 million Palestinians are on strike. They are involved in demonstrations and total civil disobedience. Undoubtedly, they need financial support, food, and material and medical support. But what Arab countries have offered so far is less than what is required. (Abu-Mazin said that three times.) It is known that many people's committees are engaged in such efforts, offering support, contributions and aid. In addition, Palestinian families are supporting each other. All aspects of the uprising have shown how splendid the Palestinian people are. The uprising has shown that in every sense Palestinians have the ability to resist, to struggle, to endure, to be patient and to work together.

[Question] Some people are raising questions and expressing doubts about whether or not guerilla operations, such as the Daymuna operation, can be carried out at the same time as the peaceful uprising. Do you agree with that point of view?

[Answer] When we stated in the Cairo Declaration that we would abandon military action outside the occupied Arab territory, we were also trying to reject any military action outside Palestinian territory. On our land, however, military action will continue until we get our rights. Any military operation, such as the Daymuna or Qibiyah operations are legitimate, and we have the right to carry out such operations at any time because our land is still occupied. Consequently, any condemnation of these operations would be unacceptable. Israel is doing the same thing. It has not refrained for a single moment from attacking our camps with armored vehicles, tanks, and even airplanes. It is our duty to respond to such operations anywhere inside our occupied territory we think would be a suitable place for making such a response.

[Question] Some people think that the idea of the ship which was to carry Palestinians back to their homeland was a failure. They think that making plans and preparations for that idea had also failed, especially since Mosad managed to blow up the ship while it was under the PLO's protection. How do you explain that?

[Answer] The ship which was to carry Palestinians back to their homeland was the product of UN Security Council Resolutions 607 and 608. These resolutions talk about the Palestinian people's right to return to their

homeland, and they prohibit Israel from deporting Palestinians. We wanted to put the two resolutions into action, and we wanted those who had been expelled from the occupied land by Israel to return to their country. We knew that Israel was not going to let them in the country, and we knew it was going to do something against them. It did: it blew up the ship in Cyprus. And yet, we are determined to exercise our right by using this or any other method. The idea of the ship was received with sympathy all over the world. Even Israelis inside the occupied land were sympathetic, and democratic Jewish forces demonstrated to salute the ship on the day of its expected arrival in Haifa. This indicates that there are Israelis who believe that Palestinians have a right to return to their homeland. In general, we express ourselves, and we exercise our right to return to our homeland, and that is one of the Palestinian people's most sacred rights.

[Question] Do you think that American efforts, which were carried out by Shultz and his emissaries, were designed to abort the uprising, or is the United States beginning to gain an understanding of Palestinian rights?

[Answer] Shultz's efforts have been based on two principles. The first one is to save Israel's existence from danger. The United States found out that the domestic situation in Israel was dangerous because of the uprising, and that is why American action was initiated. The other reason for Shultz's efforts is that the uprising has become the subject of conversation and the object of admiration in the whole world. Accordingly, it became a threat to the reputation and credibility of the United States, Israel's ally and principal partner. Based on that assumption American action in the region continued. America wanted to put an end to this popular revolutionary tide, which is reminding Europe and the United States of their own revolutions and their own popular resistance movements during the first half of this century. In general, the Palestinian people's experiences in such matters have been bitter throughout the course of their struggle. We recall the 1936 revolution and how Britain prevailed upon some Arab leaders to appeal to the Palestinian Revolution for calm. This was done because Arab leaders relied on Britain, who was then their friend and ally. They thought Britain would come up with a solution. It is unfortunate that the Palestinian people heeded that appeal and suspended their revolution and their general strike. After tranquillity was restored, Britain forgot everything. And now a cycle of history is being repeated. This time, however, we know that it is the United States which is reviving this old notion within that context to abort the uprising. Afterwards, the United States would say that the time was no longer right for finding a solution. Or it would say that Israel or Shamir had rejected the plan. It would use the US elections, the Israeli elections, and other such political clichés [to justify the failure to reach a solution].

[Question] The United States and the Soviet Union are experiencing detente. Can this detente interfere with the continuation of the uprising?

[Answer] The uprising belongs to the Palestinian people. They are the ones who determine how long it will last. International and Arab factors are supplementary factors that would help us achieve a solution or a political settlement in the region. I believe that the next U.S.-Soviet Summit meeting is being called upon to look into the hot issues of the world, such as the nuclear race and disarmament, and the hot spots of the world as well. The Middle East might be one of the first such hot spots. That is why I believe the uprising will provide an incentive to rearrange the priorities of those issues which are being raised between the two superpowers.

[Question] What is the Soviet Union's position on the uprising and the international conference? Have you been notified of a specific position in that regard?

[Answer] The Soviet Union did tell us before and is telling us now that it is willing to go to an international conference that has a mandate to act. It is willing to accept the PLO at such a conference as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It is willing to have the PLO participate in the negotiations as a principal party. It is our understanding that the Soviet Union has made observations on the Shultz plan and that these observations were looked into at a meeting between Shultz and Shevardnadze, the two countries' ministers of foreign affairs.

[Question] Do you think the international conference might be convened soon?

[Answer] No, I do not think it will be convened soon, but I do think it has become a *fait accompli*, in the sense that the United States which used to reject the idea of an international conference is now calling for it. It is true that the United States and the Soviet Union have differences of opinion about the mandates of such a conference, about who is to represent the Palestinians, and about some other details. In principle, however, we will find that 1 year ago, the United States rejected the idea of an international conference and was absolutely against it. That is why we say that in the minds of the world's leaders, the conference is now a *fait accompli*. The difference of opinion that exists now has to do with how this conference can be convened and on what bases it will be convened and executed.

[Question] You led a Palestinian delegation when you visited Cairo recently. Strategically speaking, what do you think about Palestinian-Egyptian relations now? And what about the conditions of Palestinians living in Egypt?

[Answer] After the Amman Summit issued its resolution restoring relations between Egypt and the Arabs, the PLO's relations with Egypt went beyond the limits set forth by that resolution. Our offices in Egypt are now open, and our relations with Egyptians are good. We are always consulting with each other. Dr Usamah al-Baz came to us in Tunisia where we deliberated together for

a long time about Shultz's mission and plan. We also talked about developments in international, Arab, and Palestinian conditions. That was before Abu 'Ammar went to Egypt on a private visit because his brother had died there. While he was there, Abu 'Ammar met with President Husni Mubarak. It is true that we coordinate all our activities with our fellow Egyptians and we have very good relations with them. These good relations are undoubtedly reflected on conditions for Palestinians in Egypt. The effects of those good relations will become more and more evident in the near future.

[Question] What are the dimensions of present relations with Jordan, especially after King Husayn invited Abu 'Ammar to visit Amman for talks and consultations?

[Answer] Relations with Jordan are good too. We coordinate our activities with the Jordanian government, and we consult with officials of that government. I led a Palestinian delegation that went to Amman recently where we discussed at length proposed solutions and conditions inside the occupied land. We also went back again to Amman, and the Jordanians briefed us about what the Americans had come up with: President Reagan's first message, Shultz's proposals, Philip Habib's visit and other matters. The mutual understanding, the accord and the coordination which exist between us continue.

[Question] Will Abu 'Ammar visit Amman soon?

[Answer] A decision about such a visit has of course been made, but a date has not yet been set for it because the two parties are busy. However, they will soon find the appropriate time for this visit.

[Question] What do you think about relations with Syria following the series of meetings and deliberations which were held between the PLO and Syrian officials?

[Answer] We still have questions which remain unanswered. We met several times with our fellow Syrians, and the most recent such meeting was held in Tunisia between Faruq al-Shar', Abu al-Lutf, and Abu Iyad. The three men agreed that a Palestinian delegation would visit Damascus. But we have not yet received a response regarding that matter, even though much time has elapsed since that meeting in Tunisia. We do not know if there are new reasons which would delay that meeting or interfere with it. We do not have an answer to that question, but our Syrian brothers do.

[Question] Are you still thinking about setting up a government in exile?

[Answer] Yes. Setting up a government in exile is not unlikely. It would not be an improper thing to do, but it is also not urgent. That is, when the time is right, the Palestinian people will form a temporary government. It's a matter of time. The idea itself is not unacceptable, and it is also not pressing. It is rather an idea that has

been around and that will inevitably be realized when the time is right: when there are negotiations, for example, or when an international conference is convened. When the situation calls for a temporary government, the PLO will undoubtedly form such a government as quickly as possible.

[Question] The international media made a good effort to cover the events of the uprising. Do you think the Arab media's coverage of the uprising has been comparable to that of the international media?

[Answer] The Arab media as well as the international media deserve our thanks. News, pictures, and live scenes of the events of the uprising attracted the attention of the whole world, and especially the man in the street. Actually, the international media made a real contribution to spreading the news about the uprising. Our warmest and most sincere greetings go to foreign correspondents in the occupied land. They were extremely brave: they were not intimidated by the torture, beatings, or humiliation inflicted on the press by Israeli authorities because they did their professional duty. Every day we hear about an international correspondent who was beaten, a photographer whose films were seized, or another whose cameras were smashed. And many correspondents have also been arrested. In general, the international press as well as international television stations did actually do their duty in one way or another. We are delighted with this change in the international media. The Arab press also did its part in disseminating information about the uprising and exposing daily aggressive Israeli practices. A few Arab newspapers, however, came out with extraordinary commentaries about Palestinians inside Palestine and Palestinians outside. I do not believe that such commentaries help the Palestinian question; they do, however, help the Israeli enemy, which is always trying to distinguish between those Palestinians living in Palestine and those who are living abroad.

In general, the world has praised the unity of the Palestinian people inside the country and abroad. The world recognizes that the Palestinian people are united, cohesive and joined in solidarity. The world realizes that the unity of the Palestinian people, which is manifesting itself in revolutions, uprisings, and crises, is becoming more evident than at any time in the past.

08592

Abu-Nidal Spokesman Surveys Operational Directions

44040207 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Apr 88 p 33

[Interview with 'Atif Abu-Bakr, official spokesman for Fatah—the Revolutionary Council by Najib Fariji: "Four Months of Rebellion against Those Who Stole Land and Appropriated History; The Uprising File: Part One; 'Atif Abu-Bakr, Official Spokesman for Fatah—the Revolutionary Council Tells AL-QABAS that Abu-Nidal's Foreign Operations Were Halted So that More Time Could Be Devoted to the Uprising"]

[Excerpts] 'Atif Abu-Bakr, also known as Abu-Farah, is the official spokesman for Fatah—the Revolutionary Council, which is led by mystery man, Abu-Nidal. Mr Abu-Bakr announced that his movement will observe a truce and suspend foreign operations in the world.

In an exclusive interview 'Atif Abu-Bakr told AL-QABAS that foreign operations were not an integral part of the movement. He said that it was Israel which had moved the battle, and he affirmed that all resources have to be committed to protecting and developing the uprising.

Abu-Nidal's movement extended an open invitation to the remaining Palestinian factions, asking them to join it at the table to talk about building national unity to conduct the uprising. Mr Abu-Bakr affirmed that gaining national unity meant scoring a victory in the national battle. Abu-Nidal's official spokesman denied rumors about the movement's intention to carry out operations abroad, and he affirmed that occupied Palestine was the principal scene of the conflict. The text of the interview follows:

[Question] How is Abu-Nidal's organization, which is accustomed to terrorism, dealing with the uprising?

[Answer] As an organization, we believe that at this stage the central action for the Palestinian national struggle is manifested in the popular revolution in occupied Palestine. That is why we think that all resources must be committed to that effort. Such a commitment of our resources will protect and develop the uprising and enable it to continue and go into its second stage, which is that of a general, national, not civil, disobedience. That is why our organization is sharing all its resources to support this popular revolution. It is known that numerous initiatives have been made within the Palestinian revolution, and there have been differences and contradictions as well, but we believe that none of the negative effects of any of this should be reflected on occupied Palestine. That is what is happening abroad. We are fully convinced that if we as factions can agree only on how the uprising may be strengthened and developed, such an agreement would be a major national accomplishment, even if we disagreed on most other matters which have to do with occupied Palestine. If we can agree on that, we would have even paved the way to eliminating some of the disagreements we have about other matters. One example of that which I do recall is the siege of the camps in Lebanon where our unity on the field was strengthened despite all our organizational differences about politics, about defending our existence, our role, our weapons, and our camp. We withstood the siege; our fighters were united; and we resisted the unjust siege.

What we are facing today is a major national battle which is more important than the siege. We believe that to our people the uprising is a new departure; to all factions it represents a new departure as well as a model

of action and an endeavor. It is something shared by all generations, all religious and political beliefs, all factions and national organizations. That is why when we talk about continuing the uprising, we reject outsiders' misappropriation of everything it has achieved so far. To us, continuing the uprising also means avoiding a narrow, preemptive view that sees the uprising in terms of the groups involved. It means not relying on minor scores. It means that the uprising is to be seen for what it is: a central episode in the struggle. The uprising is to be seen as a model of unity among top echelons; a political program about which there is no dispute; a way out of our revolution's protracted crisis; and a response to the multi-party effort to settle the question. This multi-party effort includes Shultz's initiative and the question of autonomy. It even includes a Palestinian part of the Camp David Accords.

That is why we insist with profound conviction that Palestinian factions rise to the level of this central episode. They must agree on the details of how this battle is to be conducted, and they must abandon all illusions and crippling conditions because continuing the uprising means winning the national battle. The failure to agree, however, will mean that this golden opportunity will be lost and the sacrifices which were made by our people will have been made in vain.

[Question] Does this mean that Palestinian factions are being invited to participate in talks about the uprising and, subsequently, about a new formula for national unity?

[Answer] Yes. This is an open invitation to concede to our people's wishes and comply with their national desires. This invitation is basically being extended to factions of the Palestinian Revolution. We want them to agree on this central point and conduct the uprising together. If we can conduct the uprising together; if we can work together on the struggle, on politics, the public, the media, and on Arab and international countries; if we can provide the means for the uprising to continue; and if we can enable our people on the field to unite, we will have given birth to an actual national consensus program which would have been tested on the field. We will have come up also with a model for national unity which is superior to those in which groups form alliances or coalitions, and none of these models constitutes unity in the real sense of the word.

In these models agreements are reached among top people only, but serious unity is that which develops from the bottom of an organization and shapes the conduct of those who serve on top. Let me also say here that rejecting a partisan and preemptive mind-set is one of the requirements for such unity. Other requirements include rejecting a nihilist and crippling mind-set and rejecting impetuosity. I believe that this place, the place where our own people are the only arbiters, is the real field where we can deal a blow to any destructive course

of action. This can be done here without any interventions and interpositions, and any deviant ideas can be put to rest. It is here that prestige can be restored to the nation's lasting principles and national unity formulated on proper foundations. As an organization, we are not afraid to talk about this. In fact, we encourage such discussions. After all, we were the ones who proposed that we join forces against the dangers in the war of the camps. Today, we are proposing the same thing to protect and develop the popular uprising. We see imminent danger, and we see fear and alarm in the eyes of Zionists and all Arabs who are indifferent.

We think that those who are laboring under misconceptions are still trying to target the uprising. They want to use its consequences to hammer out destructive deals which are totally incompatible with our people's wishes and their consensus on the field. We could support any formula for unity that might be achieved in the context of the PLO, based on serious and national principles, and as a result of such a consensus. Let me say or repeat that this has to be accomplished in the context of the PLO because the PLO represents a historical accomplishment and a temporary homeland for our people. Whether there should or should not be a PLO is not the point, but there is disagreement over the PLO's substance, its conduct and the program which directs it. We think all levels of the popular uprising serve as a model, providing the PLO with material which can enrich the organization and raise the level of national unity to new heights.

[Question] You spoke about conducting a political battle and a battle in Arab countries and on the international scene. In this regard an Arab summit meeting and an international conference are being proposed. Where do you stand on these two matters?

[Answer] To us the summit meeting is a summit for official regimes. It is a meeting that involves all the odd things which these regimes have up their sleeve. This is not a summit meeting for national and progressive Arab factions, nor is it a summit meeting for popular organizations or for the leaders of the Arab masses. We do not believe that those who will be attending the summit meeting will urge each other to protect the uprising and give it the means with which it can withstand the attacks that are being made on it. Some of these countries are calling for an end to the uprising; some have publicly approved of the Shultz plan; and some are waiting. It is regrettable that non-Arab regimes, even western European regimes like the one in Denmark, have taken positions that are well beyond those taken by some Arab regimes.

Some Arab regimes have started training special teams to fight the people with stones.

We do not want to be pessimistic, but if we were to go back to our experience during the siege of Beirut and recall the steadfastness of our fighters then, we will

remember that we did not receive a single drop of water. After withstanding all that, resolutions from a summit meeting were reported to us. Having withstood all that in the occupied territories, we believe that most of these resolutions were designed to deliver a straight blow to our heads. But this time such a blow cannot be made so publicly because the popular uprising is in the way. Is an Arab summit necessary to provide support for our people, now that what is required of these regimes is quite clear? If a summit meeting is convened, the Arabs will most certainly ask the Security Council to be charitable with the international conference. In principle, we believe that rights are to be seized on a battlefield. The international conference is nothing but a framework for writing off the cause and providing more than one false witness who would be ready and willing to bury our people and mourn their loss. And yet, we do not care at all about form. The plan that Shultz came up with manifests in full the essence of the Palestinian part of the Camp David Accords. The American action is nothing more than an attempt to interfere with the uprising and prevent its ripple effects from reaching the Arab world where they are bound to find their way. Such attempts were made with the Algerian and other revolutions. The Algerian Revolution found itself faced with a choice between two alternatives: it could either accept the meager offer that was made, or go on. Those of us who go on gain victory, and those who accept meager offers march to their own funerals. And we have to choose one of these two alternatives.

What is required is more condemnation of Zionism and racism. What is required is the formation of a broad international front that would stand by our people's rights and their struggle just as it stood by the Vietnamese Revolution. It is not impossible that something like that might happen at this stage. Zionism has been exposed more than it has ever been in the past. If progressive people had the right to continue advancing during World War II all the way to Berlin to remove the venom of racism, then our people, as well as progressive people, have the right to continue fighting this battle to achieve the same results.

[Question] Much has been said in the recent past about your determination to carry out terrorist operations abroad. How true is that?

[Answer] In answering the first question I said that occupied Palestine was the principal scene of the conflict, and I said that the principal effort must be made there. Foreign operations are not an integral part of our work, nor do they constitute its foundation. Such actions are limited and secondary. They are carried out to disrupt supplies to the Zionist entity or to strike some of those quarters where cabal members who attack our people and their institutions hide. In the past numerous operations were carried out against Zionist and American intelligence centers as well as centers which had hurt the Palestinian people. We attacked those centers to put an end to their evil practices and to check their activities.

Anyone who refers to history, realizes with conviction that it was the Zionist entity that took the battle to some countries in Europe. Our organization, Fatah—the Revolutionary Council, had not been organized then. Early in the seventies, for example, the Zionist Mosad assassinated Mahmud al-Hamshari, the PLO's representative in Paris; Wa'il Zu'aytar, the PLO's representative in Rome; Sami Abu-al-Khayr, the PLO's representative in Cyprus; Mahmud Salih, a Palestinian activist in Paris; Ghassan Kanafani, the well-known writer, in Beirut. Also in Beirut Mosad agents killed three Palestinian leaders, Kamal 'Adwan, Muhammad Yusuf al-Najjar, and Kamal Nasir; and they also killed two Arab activists, al-Qabisi and Bukhayh. All this was done before our organization was founded. The Israelis then assassinated Majid Abu Sharar in Rome and Khalid Nazal and Mundhir Abu-Ghazalah in Athens. Recently, they assassinated three Palestinians in Cyprus, and they also blew up the ship that was carrying some of our people who had been sent into exile. They also bombed the PLO's headquarters in Tunisia and the peaceful nuclear reactor in Iraq.

These are examples that come to mind immediately of what Mosad and Israel have done. Most of these things happened before our organization was founded. That is why we have an inherent right to defend ourselves and our people. We have a right to silence those cabals and put an end to these and other such evils. That was why the conflict was moved to Europe. Every honest person in western Europe ought to recall those dates and those examples to realize the truth himself. In Europe some European firms and governments made it easier for these cabals to exist and operate. And these governments have to answer to their people for what they did because they undermined the sovereignty of their countries and exposed their citizens to danger by doing nothing about these cabals. That is why we are appealing to people in those countries, asking them to apply pressure continuously to prevent these cabals from carrying out any evil operations. The people are to hold those governments responsible for respecting the national sovereignty of their countries. On our part, we do not consider a European citizen our opponent. No matter how much the media falsify facts and slant them in favor of Zionists, the Zionists' ugly racist practices have become quite clear and blatant. That is why public opinion in Europe is being called upon today to take a humanitarian and moral stand, just as it did when it took a stand against racist Nazism. We sense there is a major change in that regard, and as I said at the outset, occupied Palestine is the principal scene for action.

What you mentioned in your question was being discussed by some media agencies during the past weeks. That is why some European countries got in touch with us. Our spokesman issued an unequivocal statement in which we said that Mosad was behind the effort to publicize this false information so it can carry out reprehensible operations or distract the attention of public opinion in Europe from its crimes against our

land and our children. Our expectations turned out to be true, and attacks against Kurt Waldheim, the elected president of Austria were intensified. The Israelis put more pressure on some European countries, and they committed two crimes in Cyprus. Developments revealed that the Zionist Mosad was behind these intrigues. But our organization will punish them for their crime in Cyprus and their crimes against our children. We are affirming that the punishment they will receive will be ten times as harsh as their offense. The adage says, "Ten eyes for one eye and ten teeth for one tooth."

08592

ALGERIA

LADH Discusses Freedom of Expression
45000074 *London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
18 Apr 88 p 4

[Text] There are two kinds of censorship: censorship imposed by the [administrative] apparatus and that which writers and journalists impose upon themselves. This is the subject of the seminar chosen by the Algerian League of Human Rights [LADH], in which a number of Algerian writers, poets, artists, filmmakers, and sociologists participated. This seminar, held in Algiers on the 7th and 8th of this month, is the first of its kind, in which the participants discussed the issue of freedom of expression in cultural matters in total freedom. With the exception of the magazine *ALGERIE-ACTUALITE*, which called attention to the conference and described it as "a small yet gigantic step", the official press displayed no interest in mentioning the work of the seminar.

BAHRAIN

Developments in Aluminum Industry
44040163 *Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic* 19 Mar 88 p 5

[Article by 'Abd-al-Muttalib al-Sayrafi]

[Text] "Bahrain is eminently qualified to play a major role in integrating the aluminum industries in the region," according to a study by an Arab international bank headquartered in Bahrain.

The study by the Economic Consultations Division of Arab Bank Ltd. owned by Kuwait, the UAE, and Libya, says that "Gulf Cooperation countries are preparing to simultaneously develop both coordination and export promotion. If the feasibility of a new smelter is indicated, they may create a smelting joint venture which would be another worthy incentive to Bahraini industry."

Pointing out unsatisfactory world market developments such as soft world demand for aluminum in the fourth quarter of 1987 and the probability of continued economic stagnation into 1988, the study said "the aluminum sector in Bahrain was not impacted by either factors thanks to what was accomplished over the past few years in industrial complementarity and regional marketing."

The study expects profit margins to shrink in 1988 from their good 1977 levels for some Bahraini industries such as the production and marketing of finished and semi-finished aluminum. It emphasized, however, that this will not affect expansion plans.

"In general," the study said, "Bahrain is expected to benefit from pricing developments that force other world producers to reduce output and from the removal of incentives to use plastics and other aluminum substitutes."

That conclusion supports the call for continued expansion of primary aluminum production. The study cited the advantages of aluminum projects including Bahrain's comparative advantage in the availability of cheap plentiful sources of energy and in constant productivity improvements thanks to a successful Bahrainization effort and to the strategic priority given the project by GCC countries since it is fueled by natural gas rather than petroleum.

The study pointed out short-term benefits to the aluminum industry's short-term advantages such as "allowing commercial traffic on the Saudi-Bahraini causeway and imposing a 20 percent tariff in 1987 as a protectionist measure."

The bulwark of that industry is Aluminum Bahrain (ALBA) 57 percent of which is owned by the Bahrain government, 20 percent by the Saudi government, 17 percent by Kaiser Aluminum, and 5.1 percent by Britton Investments Ltd. The Saudi and Bahraini governments also proportionately share ownership of an aluminum marketing joint venture. The output of the smelter is divided among the partners "at a price that enables the primary producer to cover all monetary costs including capital payments and debt servicing."

This, according to the study, "allows ALBA to concentrate on the quality and quantity of production." BALCO, the marketing arm, is described as "pivotal in increasing added value and creating a comprehensive regional Gulf-Bahraini aluminum industry."

The study noted that BALCO's sales strategy ignores demand by dealers outside the Middle East and imposes a reduction in the allotment to current dealers perhaps "to be able to pursue expansion plans."

ALBA has announced a \$106 million project to increase annual production to 225,000 tons by 1991.

ALBA's impact has not been limited to being a major employer with annual domestic spending of more than 25 million dinars. It has been able to establish a broad industrial base that largely depends on ALBA's primary aluminum product. One such industry is the International Bahrain Company for Metal Finishing, a joint venture of the Bahraini government and Britton whose product is used in the manufacture of dyes and explosives. There is also the Bahrain Aluminum Extrusion Company which manufactures aluminum bars, windows, and other structural items. It created an incentive for aluminum intensive industries such as Medal Company for the Production of Aluminum. Six Gulf states recently founded the Gulf Factory for Aluminum Fabrication. Such an industrial base has secured for BALCO, which markets the Saudi and Bahraini shares of raw aluminum, the sale of 32 percent of output estimated at 180,000 metric tons.

This overview of the aluminum industry would indicate that countries of the region are following a practical course by basing their strategic planning on available resources and providing native manpower with technical training that could be expensive at the beginning. We can't see the creation in our region of an industry to solve the unemployment problem of other societies. Local manpower accounts for no less than 85 percent of all aluminum employees, thanks to the empirical policies pursued. This is a high percentage compared to other countries and here is the challenge!

12945/7310

EGYPT

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Coming Visit to Moscow
NC0105134288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that his visit to Moscow this month will take place in keeping with the foreign policy guidelines drawn up by President Husni Mubarak. These guidelines, 'Abd al-Majid said, call for a balanced attitude toward the big powers. 'Abd al-Majid said that under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev the Soviet Union has been seeking to develop its relations with Middle East countries.

'Abd al-Majid denied that the United States has any special military facilities in Egypt, saying that the country is an independent and free nation.

He called on Arab countries to reach a unified Arab strategy through which they could participate in efforts to reach a political settlement in the region. 'Abd al-Majid added that the Arabs could make good use of the Palestinian uprising, which has changed many equations in the region.

Interior Minister on Attempts To Disrupt Security
NC2904045988 Cairo MENA in English
1452 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, April 28 (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr said today that some regimes (which he did not name), supported by a "perverted few" inside the country, were trying to tamper with Egypt's security. "But their attempts will fail as a result of the awareness of Egypt's sons who care for her security," he said.

The minister, who was speaking at a popular rally in Asyut last night [as received], said the Khomeyni regime in Iran, and some extremists in the Hizballah party (Party of God) in Lebanon were financing a handful of extremists in Islamic countries who are not true to their nations because Khomeyni wanted to be the caliph of Moslems.

The interior minister said communists tried from time to time to disturb the peace and attempt to drive a wedge between Egypt and other countries and distort Egypt's stand with the Palestinians.

The minister said the emergency law has been applied only on narcotic and heroin dealers and criminals.

Former Minister of Health Demands Increase in Drug Prices
45040106b Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic
12 Mar 88 p 5

[Interview with 'Abduh Mahmud Salam, Former Minister of Health, by Dr Rif'at Kamal; Date, Place not Given]

[Excerpts] [Dr 'Abduh Mahmud Salam] The Egyptian drug situation must be looked at. The drug industry is in danger. I am not talking about the investment [private sector] plants alone; rather, I assert that the same danger also engulfs the public sector plants.

The facts stress that we need to increase annually the number of plants that protect the Egyptian citizen from the demon of drug imports required to meet the ever-increasing demands of a growing population seeking expanded medical services.

This accomplishment will not be achieved while we continue to raise the slogan of "no increase in drug prices."

This slogan leads to the unavailability of drugs and threatens the closure of plants. We wonder: What do this slogan's advocates seek?

Let us return to imports.

The Egyptian patient is willing to pay a few extra piasters to avoid the torture of searching for a drug, and to insure that his national factories continue to produce.

Let us turn to the charter which states that medicine is a service that must be made easily available. This means that all kinds of needed drugs must be made available in adequate quantities to every Egyptian patient and that the price of a drug must not be allowed to prevent a patient from getting it.

This means that we must provide free drugs to financially incapable patients in free hospitals while charging the financially capable patients a reasonable price.

To apply this principle, it is required that drug prices be increased. The current prices are unrealistic. Yesterday's price does not befit the present. The insistence on maintaining yesterday's prices requires a pause to clarify the features of a likely catastrophe.

The drug industry depends on the importation of numerous raw and packaging materials. It is well known that the cost of raw materials represents 40 percent of the drug production cost. All these materials are imported. Consequently, before we raise the slogan of freezing drug prices, we must have the power to control the prices of the world market from which we purchase these raw materials. We must be able to order these prices to stop rising and to stay at the level of years long since past. This is, of course, an impossible assumption.

But what happened when the slogan of freezing the prices was raised?

Let me start with the mainstay of the Egyptian drug industry, meaning the public sector plants. The official statistics affirm that these plants' profits have ranged from 1-2.5 percent!

In 1980, Dr Mamduh Jabr was the minister of health. Several government agencies met at the time to study the drug issue carefully. The study stressed that the public sector could not increase its production by more than 50 percent than the current output (which amounted to 320 million pounds at the time). This is a fact. Another fact confirmed that Egypt's drug consumption increased by 10 percent annually. By complex calculation processes, another international study confirmed that if Egypt's plants maintained their production level, they would produce only 35 percent of the country's needs by the year 2000.

Consequently, expanding the drug industry surfaced as an urgent national demand. Three ways were defined to meet this demand:

- Have the state build new drug plants at its own expense, thus expanding the public sector. This approach was impossible to implement because a new plant was required annually from 1980 until the year 2000 to produce new drugs valued at 40 million pounds annually.
- Have the state permit the Egyptian private sector to invest in the drug industry.

- Or have the state permit foreign investment in the drug industry.

In the wake of the following anecdote, the state had no option other than the Egyptian investor:

The Investment Authority invited a group of American investors. After trips, banquets, and dinners, one of the investors said in the final session, "We thank you for this hospitality. But Egypt must know that the American drug industry's profits amount to 30 percent. As for investing my money in Egypt, I want an extra 10 percent. Will Egypt agree to allow me a profit of 40 percent which I can transfer abroad?"

The conference was upset by this question, and it became evident that the only hope was the Egyptian investor, who does not transfer his money abroad, and who does not aspire for a profit of more than 10 percent.

This is how the idea of investment in the drug area appeared. The investment plants were not born unexpectedly, as some people falsely allege. They were not allowed the freedom to produce whatever drugs they wanted, and were not even allowed to set the prices of their products.

The state had formulated a plan calling on the private sector to help the public sector perform its role. The production volume in each sector, the types of drugs produced by each sector, and even the quantity of each variety to be produced were set.

This proves that those who say that the investment plants produce aspirin and sell the most expensive cosmetics are false. I say at the top of my lungs that the investment plants produce vital drugs and that these plants produce their goods with the approval of:

- The investors who own the capital.
- The Investment Authority.
- A joint committee of the Ministry of Health and the Investment Authority.

The investment plants have marched side by side with the public sector plants. Collectively, these plants have produced 85 percent of the drugs consumed this year, keeping in mind that local production covered only 10 percent of the consumption in 1952!

[Interviewer] (I smiled when hearing this comparison which is rarely used when any problem is studied. Nobody mentions the pre-revolution Egypt, Egypt at the time of nationalization, and Egypt after privatization).

[Question] What is the new development that has detonated the drug crisis?

[Answer] Pricing. The drug industry has recently faced fatally hard conditions. For example, a drug has been in production for 20 years and the government is determined to keep its price fixed. The quantity produced cannot meet the demand. The Ministry of Health then proceeds to approve the production of a similar drug to make up for the shortfall, but insists on amazing conditions, namely: The drug produced in 1988 is to be sold at the 1962 price!

8494

Solar Energy Used in Irrigation Project

NC0905133288 Cairo MENA in English
1220 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Solar energy was used for the first time in Egypt for lifting subterranean waters from wells at Wadi al-Natrun region in the Western Desert. The experiment was made in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany to exploit the water for irrigating five thousand feddans in the region.

Minister of Public Works and Water Resources 'Isam Radi said this project will be generalized in other regions in the Western Desert and Sinai on the basis of importing irrigation pumps and other equipment in the form of grants to this project which contributes effectively to irrigating large areas of land.

The Government of Canada has decided to contribute a grant worth 10 million dollars to be exploited in projects using solar energy in water desalination. U.S. aid has also agreed to finance the first experiment of its kind in Egypt for exploiting solar energy in desalinating some waters of the Mediterranean Sea to irrigate crops in the adjacent regions.

Oil Minister on Providing Fuel for Power Plants

NC0805105088 Cairo MENA IN ARABIC
1005 GMT 8 MAY 88

[Excerpt] Chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has stressed that the oil sector is absolutely ready to meet Egypt's oil needs and to supply electricity plants with the fuel they need even if the operation of the High Dam power station stops because of the drop in water levels. He added that the oil sector views as a great responsibility its full readiness to deal with such a difficult situation and to take it into account with regard to next year's fiscal plan.

Speaking at the fourth annual rally held at Egypt's Oil Club last night, the minister disclosed that the oil sector is providing Egypt's power plants with more than 70 percent of the fuel they need, which points to the fact that more than 70 percent of electricity is generated from oil. He added that the oil sector also has fully implemented its commitments stipulated under the government's plan.

At the rally which was held to mark the Sinai and Labor Day celebrations, chemist Qandil declared that the oil sector pledges to dear Egypt to be quick in meeting its oil requirements. He stressed that this sector has achieved self-sufficiency in providing all petroleum products which used to be imported until 1975, adding that Egypt has now become an exporting country. [passage omitted]

Conference on Arab Investments

44040158c Dabbay AL-BAYAN in Arabic
14 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi yesterday opened the Conference on Arab Investment which will continue for three days. Attending this conference are large numbers of investors and businessmen, representatives of chambers of commerce and industry, Arab development funds and the Arab Organization for Investment Insurance. His Excellency the UAE minister of economy and foreign trade, Sayf al-Jarwan, attended the opening, as well as a UAE delegation from the Chamber of Commerce, headed by Sa'id al-'Utaybah, the union president.

In an opening speech, the Egyptian prime minister emphasized that Egypt is striving for the removal of all obstacles that foreign investors face. He pointed out that investment projects that had been approved by the end of February amounted to 1,666 projects, with a total capital of 7.6 billion Egyptian pounds, of which 1.3 billion belong to Arab investors.

09455/7310

Minister Reports on New Power Lines, Stations in Sinai

45000071 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Apr 88 p 3

[Report by Muhammad al-Shamma']

[Text] It has been decided to erect the first steam-driven power station in the Sinai in the al-'Arish region. It will have a total capacity of 60,000 kilowatts and a cost of \$40 million, providing power to construction, tourism, and nutritional security projects in the region. Engineer Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity and energy, stated this yesterday.

He said that 5 million Egyptian pounds had been allocated this year to subsidize generation capabilities in several cities and villages in both the North and South Sinai Governorates, where 8 million Egyptian pounds were allocated to expand 5 new generating stations in the cities of Ra's al-Sidr, Abu Zanimah, Abu Rudays, Nakhil, and Ra's al-Naqb. Power transfer and distribution networks in al-'Arish have been supported by extending new electricity networks by 150 kilometers to ensure abundance and stability in the electrical supply.

Minister of Irrigation Talks About Water Shortage, Solutions

45040095 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
21 Mar 88 pp 37-38

[Interview with 'Isam Radi, minister of public works and water resources, by Majdi Hasanayn: Cairo, date not given]

[Excerpts] Since 1979, the Nile River has been dropping continually. No one knows what Egypt's fate would have been, but for the existence of the High Dam, which has protected Egypt during the past years. Nevertheless, the debate goes on. AL-DUSTUR went to the first official responsible for water in Egypt, Engineer 'Isam Radi, minister of public works and water resources, and talked to him about the shortage of water in the Nile.

[Question] According to a report prepared by British experts, the shortage of water in the Nile River has been going on for 9 years in a row. Where has the ministry been all this time?

[Answer] The High Dam has been the best solution for continuous storage. It is like a bank in which we save when we have many resources, and from which we borrow when these resources are few.

The High Dam's estimated 90 billion cubic meter holding capacity varies in level between a maximum height of 175 meters at the beginning of August each year, to a level of 147 meters behind the wall of the High Dam.

In spite of the shortage of inflow that has characterized the period from 1979 to the present, the water level at the dam is still at the 158 meter level because of the High Dam, thank God. We have a total reserve in the dam lake, Lake Nasir, amounting to 56 billion cubic meters.

From 1979 to the present, the ministry has not ceased announcing developments in the level of the Nile. Questions are asked about the subject in the People's Assembly, in addition to the memoranda exchanged between the assembly and the ministerial committees and other affected ministries, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Electricity.

The inflow pattern does not really become evident until the month of October. We then announce to the public the volume of inflow, required needs, and how they are to be managed.

[Question] Is the 40 percent of Egypt's power drawn from the High Dam subject to any threat?

[Answer] One of the misrepresentations in THE TIMES is the amount of power generated by the High Dam: it does not represent 40 percent of the volume of power generated in Egypt, but only 22 percent. If we compare the amount of power generated from the High Dam this

year, even with the lowest of the levels the water may possibly reach, the volume will be only 7 percent less than the power generated last year, not 60 percent less, as THE TIMES says.

[Question] How can the 22 percent of Egypt's power produced by the High Dam be protected?

[Answer] The High Dam electrical station was designed to operate at a water level ranging between 175 and 147 meters behind the wall of the dam. We are not going to reach the 147 meter level. We are now at a level of 158 meters.

[Question] Doesn't the difference between the 147 and 158 meter level constitute a danger?

[Answer] An 11 meter water elevation represents, I believe, a tremendous figure in terms of storage: more than 30 billion cubic meters. Even covering all kinds of water consumption—agriculture, industry, drinking, navigation, and electrical generation—the water level at the High Dam will not drop below 150 meters at the end of July, 1988. The new season of Nile inundation begins immediately afterwards, and water levels will again begin to rise; so we shall not drop to the levels at which the High Dam turbines cease to operate. The ministry will not allow it.

[Question] What approaches is the ministry taking toward projects for guiding and controlling the water of the Nile, particularly after the announcement of dams to be built by the ministry on the Rashid and Dumyat branches?

[Answer] Another mistake in THE TIMES is that the consulting bureau advised the Ministry of Irrigation to build an aqueduct or dam on the Rashid branch to draw water from it and store it in lakes. This is a mistake; in fact, the Idfina aqueducts at the end of the Rashid branch have existed since 1950. The project that the ministry, not the consulting bureau, suggested is that water available during the dam's winter season be stored in Lake Burullus to cover navigation, electrical generation, and domestic and industrial water consumption and be reused again during the summer months, and to store an equivalent amount in the High Dam lake, either for years characterized by a small inflow, as we are now experiencing, or to be used in projects for horizontal expansion.

There is also a dam on the Dumyat branch at Fariskur. The ministry is now improving it so that it can feed the al-Salam Canal for land reclamation projects east and west of the [Suez] Canal. There are no new dams or aqueducts to be built on the Dumyat and Rashid branches. What will be done is to renovate the obsolete Isna aqueducts and use them for generating hydroelectric power. They will be provided with first-class locks to facilitate navigation and a road and a large bridge for

trucks over 70 tons. Also, water levels required to feed the principal canal (the al-Kilabiyah Canal) for irrigating the land of Qina Province will be provided.

[Question] How can one conserve the 4 billion cubic meters of water that Egypt loses into the Mediterranean Sea every day?

[Answer] I want to make it clear that 4 billion cubic meters used to be lost in past years; however, since 1984-85, the quantity has gradually decreased. Last year, in 1986, it was 3 billion cubic meters. This year, the ministry will allow no more than 2 billion cubic meters. The ministry has the resources for storing these 2 billion cubic meters in the northern lakes, especially in Lake Burullus. With such action, not a drop will go to waste in the sea.

[Question] The problem of storing fresh water in the lakes of the northern Delta, the project that since the sixties has been called "Northern Lakes Fresh Water Conversion"—what has happened to this?

[Answer] Fresh water conversion of lakes is an operation that has been carried out by many countries before us; for example, the Netherlands. It is an operation that consists of expanding agricultural land by cutting off areas of the sea and converting lakes to fresh water. We have a Zuider Zee project for converting a lake into fresh water.

The operation will be carried out by allowing fresh water to overflow the salt water, so that the fresh water gradually expels the salt water. Over a period of 2 or 3 years the process will be completed; the lakes will be transformed into fresh-water lakes, and sea water will be prevented from entering. Fish adapted to fresh water will be raised; we will build tourist villages and recreation areas; and the water will be reused to irrigate new or adjacent lands. Holland has experience in this field and is a living model that we have imitated in building the required sluices on Lake Burullus. We will use it as a reservoir for fresh water.

[Question] As long as we are speaking about the Sinai, information has recently been circulating about Israel's stealing ground water in the Sinai and establishing agricultural projects in the border settlements. What is the position of the Ministry of Irrigation toward such thefts?

[Answer] I think the reference is to the Nubian sandstone reservoir. Neither Israel nor anyone else can steal from our water supply, because the reservoirs are virtually separate. There is no direct contact between the reservoirs because of the geological complexities present in the base rocks and protrusions that would supply the contact.

Israel uses the ground water reservoir neighboring us in the Negev desert. The volume of water in it does not exceed 25 million cubic meters a year. Our water plan is not to expand use of deep ground water, because it is expensive: costs for a well amount to about .5 million pounds. The plan concentrates on expanding use of surface water, more than ground water.

Egypt, as represented by the Ministry of Works, will allow no one, whoever he may be, to usurp Egypt's right to any water found in its land.

Ground Water

[Question] To follow up on this, what are the ministry's plans for optimal ground water use, so as to relieve pressure on the Nile and the High Dam reservoir?

[Answer] The ministry has a policy of using and developing water resources from all sources, whether these be surface sources from the Nile—not allowing water to go to waste in the sea, storing the surplus, and reusing treated agricultural drainage or sewer water—or the ground water reservoir in the Nile Valley and Delta, the Western Desert, and the Sinai Peninsula.

Currently, we actually use 2.3 billion cubic meters from the ground reservoir. This is planned to reach 3 billion cubic meters by the end of the current 5-year plan (1987-1992). By the year 2000, we shall be exploiting 5 [billion] cubic meters of ground water. As for the underground reservoir present in the Western Desert and the Sinai, the plan is for us to use about 3 billion cubic meters. Today, we in fact use about .5 billion cubic meters in the New Valley and the Western Desert. These are used to irrigate about 42,000 feddans in the New Valley (with a planned expansion to 142,000 feddans by the year 2000), in addition to about 190,000 feddans east of al-'Uwaynat. The total of these areas will exceed 370,000 feddans, requiring close to 2.7 billion, or at least 2.5 billion cubic meters.

Within the context of using ground water in the Sinai, we are in fact fully using the surface water, since some wells are beginning to show signs of increasing salinity.

[Question] What about the idea of extending the Nile River into the Sinai, and from there to Israel?

[Answer] No agency in Egypt has given the slightest thought to supplying Israel with a drop of Nile water. However, the government's plan is to bring the northern coast into cultivation from west of al-'Arish to the Suez Canal—the area known as the al-Tinah Plain—with water from the al-Salam Canal. Half of its water will come from agricultural drainage water. There is not the least thought of supplying Israel.

12937

Private Sector Disallowed From Arms Industry 45000073B Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Apr 88 p 4

[Text] A senior official has announced that official agencies in Egypt have rejected the entry of private sector companies or investment companies into the arms industry. He said that it is permissible only to those participating up to a certain extent and in specific projects for certain lengths of time, in order to retain the government's control.

Arab Journalists Visit Sinai Fortifications 45040104b Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Apr 88 p 5

[Article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[Text] Major General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander of the 2d Field Army, announced that our forces are able to carry out any missions assigned to them at any time. With the enormous experience they have acquired, they would be able to deal with any situation, using their most modern weapons and equipment from East and West, as well as from our own domestic military production.

During his meeting yesterday with the members of the Arab journalists' tour group, Maj Gen Tantawi added that "war teaches war. Therefore, we are handing on the experience we acquired in October 1973 to the generation of young officers, staff, and soldiers, who did not witness this war and learn its great lessons."

Answering a question from a Palestinian journalist, Maj Gen Tantawi said: "I have been fighting since the fifties, and I fought at Khan Yunis. Nevertheless, I say that if the legitimate rights of the Palestinians could be obtained by peace, it would be much better. Only we soldiers know the real dimensions of modern war."

During this meeting with Arab journalists (the first of its kind), Maj Gen Tantawi stated that he was speaking as commander of a mobilization combat unit, and that his words applied to that context and level, and only to military aspects. He avoided commenting on any political aspects raised by the journalists by virtue of their profession.

Members of the Arab journalists' tour group came from: Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Qatar, Somalia, Kuwait, Palestine, Eritrea, Mauritania, Yemen, and Iraq. They arrived in Isma'iliyah yesterday morning and were carried to the east bank of the Suez Canal by a military ferry of the type our forces used in the October 1973 crossing. They penetrated 90 km into the depths of the middle sector of the Sinai, where they saw the fortifications of our 2d Field Army in the area of the strategic passes. They visited two combat units in this area and saw for themselves the tank, armored vehicle, infantry, and air defense units deployed deep in the Sinai.

The Arab journalists were accompanied on this tour by more than 20 Egyptian journalists from government and opposition newspapers. In the vicinity of Kathib al-Khayl, one of the commanders told them about the fierce battles that had taken place in the area. They saw vestiges of the battle: destroyed tanks and armored vehicles on which Egyptian soldiers had written, "Here honor was restored!"—"Here the long arm was cut off!"

After those present had listened to a detailed description of the battle and had inspected the tanks that remain there to the present day, they went to the monument that was erected in the same place to the martyrs of the battle. There they recited the Fatihah [Qur'anic verse] in memory of their pure souls. Afterwards, they went to visit an infantry unit, where they saw the equipment the men of the Sinai have for modern practical training. Then they ate lunch with the commander and officers of the unit.

Later, the delegation members met with Maj Gen Muhammad Tantawi, commander of the 2d Field Army. The meeting lasted more than an hour. The general answered all their questions and then presented the Arab journalists with the medal of the 2d Army in commemoration of this, their first visit.

12937

Makramallah on Joint Holding Companies, loans
NC0905103888 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0835 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 May (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation, has announced that Egypt has agreed with Turkey and Oman to set up holding companies similar to the Egyptian-Jordanian investment company. These companies will undertake joint investment ventures of mutual economic interest, he added.

In an interview with MENA'S correspondent in Amman, Makramallah said that Egypt is currently holding talks with a view to establishing a similar company with Tunisia, noting that the Egyptian economy will be in a very good position in 5 years time if a serious approach to productivity is sought.

He pointed out that Egypt has laid down guidelines that are to be observed when new loans are obtained. According to these guidelines, simple interest rates will apply when new loans are obtained. Repayments will be long term, and loans will be efficiently used in the economic field to promote development.

Banks Implement New Foreign Currency Procedures

45040100 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Mar 88 p 3

[Article by Jamil George and Faraj Abu-al-'Izz]

[Text] New bank procedures went into effect yesterday, marking the beginning of the third phase of the foreign currency market.

No deals were made under the new regulations which the banks received late yesterday afternoon. Bank presidents conferred with senior executives to plan procedural changes under the new rules. Businessmen were asked to consider societal factors when offering credits for imports, and not to allow the banks to be the sole decisionmakers in this regard. A large number of citizens wonder what impact the new rules will have on social security payments by expatriates, customs duties, airline fares, and the prices of imported goods.

Director of Customs Fathi Salamah says, "Instructions were issued the day before yesterday to customs stations which immediately began to calculate duty on the basis of a dollar value of 189 piasters rather than 186.5 piasters—a slight increase of less than three piasters which should not affect pricing. We appeal to importers not to raise prices on the pretext that customs duties have increased."

He added, "The new customs rate applies to all import costs which are based on unvalued currencies and accounts, and is based on the actual value of the goods in Egyptian currency at the port of arrival on the date of the customs declaration.

"Customs applies the new dollar rate to imports of cars, raw materials, and capital goods. The deciding factor here is the date on the customs declaration."

Businessmen approve of the new regulations, provided the banks offer dollar-denominated credits for imports in an objective manner and with a view to the social implications. For instance, a labor-intensive project is larger and is required to pay the social security obligations of its workers. This contrasts with certain contractors who operate out of a single office, and sometimes even out of their home, and yet can get letters of credit worth millions of dollars overnight. There are also those businessmen who wonder whether banks have enough foreign money to cover letters of credit. The truth shall soon be known. Regarding guarantees for Egyptian workers, an official said, "there are two categories:

"1. Egyptians abroad borrowing from official or government organizations and dealing with the public sector abroad were charged based on the rate of a now-defunct consortium of authorized banks. "2. Expatriates in the private sector and those working under personal contracts were charged at the free exchange market rate. Now that the consortium of authorized banks is disbanded, all insurance payments are figured on the basis of a foreign currency market rate of 225 piasters per dollar."

There are 40 firms in the textile, mineral, and thermal industries whose needs are all met through the currency market.

As to airline rates, experts say that surplus funds will be exchanged at currency market rates. If they date back prior to the new rules, they will be converted at the rate in effect at the time of financing minus 12 percent of value.

Airlines of free exchange countries now have the right to issue travel and excess luggage tickets to non-resident foreigners in return for bank receipts for deposits they make to the airline's account at any authorized commercial bank. This would facilitate the repatriation of surplus funds, if any, without going through the state. The banks, on the other hand, would report the transaction to the Currency Control Department.

The currency market rate also applies to foreign and Egyptian shippers when they exchange surpluses, shipping charges, and other revenues that are payable locally in Egyptian pounds. Costs of supplies, repairs, and other marine services will be deducted at the same rate of exchange at the time when the ship arrives in an Egyptian port. The rate of exchange set by the consortium of authorized banks on 20 March will apply to conversions by ships that arrived in Egyptian ports before 21 March.

Bankers say these procedures are another step towards a unified rate of exchange which would enable the importer to open letters of credit in local currency at rates that reflect the true value of the Egyptian pounds vis-a-vis other currencies.

An official said that free market rates will equally apply to the development plan's foreign currency investments of some 1.5 billion pounds. Two exceptions are the Petroleum and Suez Canal authorities, which are financed by the central bank at the rate of 70 piasters to the dollar.

A report by central bank governor Dr Salah Hamid put the bank's 1986/87 revenues at 1,393.5 million pounds, compared with 2,308 million pounds a year earlier. These revenues, derived from petrochemical, raw cotton, and rice exports, Suez Canal tolls, and Sumed [Suez-Mediterranean] pipeline fees, are used to pay for Egyptian imports of wheat, flour, cooking oil, sugar, tea, insecticides, fertilizers, and general and international debt obligations. The central bank's rate of 70 piasters to the dollar will be maintained in order to preserve the current level of prices for staples important to a broad base of citizens and limited income consumers.

The foreign exchange cache of the defunct consortium of authorized banks was derived from expatriate remittances, income from tourism, and revenues from exports, with the exception of cotton, oil, and rice, whose revenues are used to finance all seen and unforeseen transactions.

The consortium had 1986/87 revenues of some 4.881 billion pounds, compared with 4.241 billion pounds in the previous year. The increase is attributed to a rise in

expatriate remittances and revenues from tourism and exports, thanks to the creation in May 1987 of the free banking market for foreign currency, which helped increase the inflow of foreign exchange through the banking system.

This increased export revenues by about 198 million pounds and hiked tourism revenues to 481 million pounds for an increase of 79.8 million pounds. Expatriate remittances also rose by 135 million pounds to 633.1 million pounds. Bank accounts increased by 110 million pounds, the purchase of domestic goods increased by 2.602 million pounds, and other currency exchanges increased by 12,607 pounds. 'Abd-al-Ghani Jami', governor of the Bank of Alexandria and vice chairman of the Federation of Banks, says the dissolution of the commercial bank consortium was occurred in the context of several earlier decisions to bring the Egyptian pound to its true exchange rate in order to restore economic balance to financial transactions whether exporting or importing, buying or selling. He pointed out the desirability of maintaining a central bank exchange rate of 70 piasters to the dollar, since the difference between it and the free market rate is borne by the state as a subsidy to the working classes.

He explained that it is a sound practice to set the customs dollar at 189 piasters inasmuch as the rate reflects the introduction of a new rate of exchange. Another alternative would have been for customs to use the free market rate, then deduct a predetermined amount in order to affect that balance.

'Aziz Juwaili, director of foreign operations at Misr-Iran Bank says the third phase for developing the currency market began last May. There is little doubt that it is a step towards supporting the pound's sovereignty and restoring respect for it by making it possible for the importer to open letters of credit in local currency at any time and at realistic rates. The market does not cover such transactions as foreign travel and travel connected with the Pilgrimage because it is important to give priority to import needs. Those who want to travel for fun will have to bear the cost.

12945

Assyut Refinery To Increase Capacity
45000075 Cairo EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English
1 May 88 P 2

[Text] Assyut Oil Refinery will soon be operated at a capacity of 2.5 million tons per annum, which [then] will be raised to 5 million tons, said Sayid 'Abaza, Chairman of Assyut Petroleum Company.

Abu Ghazalah To Witness Bridging Demonstration, Open New Camp
45000070 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Apr 88 p 6

[Text] Next Saturday morning Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and military production, will

watch a practical demonstration on erecting a bridge that can be quickly constructed for tank crossings. The demonstration will be carried out on Lake al-Timsah in the Jabal Maryam region. A military camp will also be opened for a mechanized infantry group which has been quartered by its own efforts in the Second Army Sector. The opening and the demonstration will be attended by Lieutenant General Safa-al-Din Abu Shannaf, chief of staff; Hasanallah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing and new communities; 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Amarah, governor of Isma'iliyah; and Brigadier General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander of the Second Field Army.

Commentary on Jewish Internal Conflicts

45040104a *Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic*
5 Apr 88 p 12

[Article by Anis Mansur under the rubric: "Positions"]

[Text] The Jewish peoples in Israel know they are undergoing a severe hardship, namely that they are very diverse, different, and disparate. They agree on no opinion, point of view, or even about the Jewish religion. There are still rabbis who throw stones at their fellow Jews every Saturday, if they catch them smoking or driving cars (which is religiously forbidden). There are still Jews in Israel who believe the establishment of the state is religiously forbidden and who do not do business with each other in shekels. In the past 40 years, Israel has not decided who is a Jew—there are Jews there who are not Jews from the standpoint of religious law. The Ethiopian Jews are not Jews because they do not believe a bride has to bathe herself before the wedding; the Egyptian Jews are not Jews because, believing in the Torah, they place it above the Talmud, etc.

If a Jew lived alone on an island, he would build two places of worship: one for him to pray in, and the second for him not to pray in—such is the degree of inner contradiction!

When Barry Goldwater (he is half Jewish) became a candidate for the American presidency in 1964, the American Jews said about him, "He is the only man in the world who would be fired on by both sides, if he stood on the border between Israel and any Arab state."

Truman, Khrushchev, and Weizmann are supposed to have met once. Each started to complain about his worries. Khrushchev said, "My greatest misfortune is that I have 2 million members of the Communist Party." Truman said, "I have 180 million citizens whom nothing pleases." Weizmann, the president of Israel, said, "I have a million Jews, each of whom believes he is president and that I am the only citizen."

In Israel now there are powerful currents afraid of peace. They fear for the state itself. They fear that Israel will turn into a big "Jewish ghetto" in the heart of the Arab countries. The Jews will never forget the number 73: In the year 73, the Romans besieged the fortress of Masada,

and everyone inside committed suicide. In the 1973 war, Israel was defeated for the first time. They do not want Israel to become a new Masada, nor do they want the Arabs to stand shoulder to shoulder in a new October 1973. Reason, logic, flexibility, and the preservation of peace are necessary. Flexibility, momentum, and logic are required on both sides.

12937

Commentary on Kuwaiti Airline Hijacking

45040104c *Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic*
16 Apr 88 p 7

[Article by Salah Muntasir under rubric "Merely Opinion": "Brief Remarks"]

[Text] 1. Normally, after the hijacking of any airplane some organization rushes to announce to the world its responsibility for the event. Although 12 days have passed since the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, not a single organization has linked itself to the event, even falsely. What does this mean?

Very briefly, it means that the author of the event was not an organization, but a state. Since states do not usually attribute such terrorist operations to themselves, no one has heard anything about the agency to which the hijackers belong.

2. The airliner's first destination was the airport of Mashhad in Iran. The airliner confronted no difficulties in landing. Four days later, it left the Iranian airport, even though Kuwaiti authorities urged Iran not to allow it to fly. What does this mean?

3. It was observed that all the foreign passengers who were English, French, or Austrian were released at Mashhad Airport, and that the only remaining passengers were those belonging to the Arab states. What can this mean but that those who planned the operation did not want to arouse the Western World? They wanted to tell it very clearly that only the Arabs were intended.

4. At Mashhad airport in Iran, none of the passengers was subjected to violence or killed. The violence and killing began only after the airliner left Iran. At Larnaca airport in Cyprus, there was the terrifying and inhuman spectacle of the bodies of two young slain Kuwaitis being thrown from the airplane. What does it mean that acts of violence were committed far from Iran?

5. Accounts differ about the hijackers: Are they 8 or 10, more or less? The passengers who have been released and who saw them have been unable to describe them exactly. They said that after the operation they put masks on their faces to hide their features. Can one deduce from this that possibly some of them were replaced at Mashhad airport in Iran?

6. The Kuwaiti authorities' version states that the weapons that hijackers had at the beginning of the operation were fake—fake pistols and bombs. After they left Mashhad airport in Iran, they had real weapons—pistols and bombs—and in fact used these pistols to kill two men.

7. The hijackers' expression that they were wearing shrouds as a sign of their readiness "to undergo martyrdom," as they said when they threatened to blow up the airliner and those aboard, is a well-known Iranian expression, going back to the time of Ayatollah Kashani. He used to move the Iranian masses with his ringing pronouncement, "Bring the shroud." He meant that he would be going out to the masses on his way to death.

And the airliner is still in Algeria.

12937

Muslim Brotherhood To Publish Newspaper, Found Party

45000073A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
4 May 88 p 8

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood group in Egypt is preparing to publish a daily newspaper conveying its opinion and is also preparing to reprint books written by the group's founder via The Islamic Company for Printing and Publishing, which was founded recently. Appellate Judge Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, a member of Parliament and member of the group's advisory office, was chosen as chairman of the board of directors with the goal of overcoming the problem of reissuing MAJALLAT AL-DA'WAH [MAGAZINE OF THE CALL], whose license the government decided to cancel upon the death of its founder, Shaykh Salih al-'Ashmawi. The group is waiting for the administrative court on 31 May to hear the case for cancelling the decision to prohibit the group's activity, in preparation for making a final decision regarding the founding of a new political party, for which the publication of the newspaper is preparatory.

KUWAIT

Results of University Elections Reported

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 19 Apr 88 pp14, 15

[Excerpt] For the tenth consecutive time since 1979, the coalition ticket has won in the [Kuwait University campus] elections of the National Union of Kuwaiti students. The elections took place Wednesday, April 13, after having won the support of the general assembly. The results are as follows:

Coalition Party- 1st place - 2669 votes

Free Islamic Party - 2nd place - 1032 votes

Moderate Democrats - 3rd place - 822 votes

Islamic Union - 4th place - 731 votes

Independents - 5th place - 384 votes

Nationalists - 6th place - 88 votes

LEBANON

Article Recounts Contributions of Help Lebanon Program

44040182B Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
23 Mar 88 p 10

[Text] Ten years have passed and activities increase every year. Help Lebanon celebrated its anniversary quietly. At a press conference, its president, Mrs. Lillian Tayyan, spoke about its achievements and its up-coming project:

The war that began in 1975 necessitated the first project. When Help Lebanon was founded in 1978, it tried to get children living along the contact lines out into the fresh air, particularly those in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, since they spent most of their time in shelters and suffered from lung and skin diseases. They were given a three-week summer vacation in the mountains at monasteries and convents with appropriate recreation and sports.

This led to a second project, psychological treatment. Psychologists noted that the war had affected every child, so C.A.M.P. (the Center for Medical and Psychological Assistance) was founded, with 20 psychologists visiting the schools, particularly those run by the government. It became apparent that 40 percent of the children were suffering from minor psychological problems which threatened future complications, such as bedwetting, stuttering, inability to concentrate in class, and social misbehavior. The physicians tried to help these children, and so far 42,000 students have been tested.

It also became clear that the schools were no longer able to undertake the task of giving their students an annual medical examination, as required by the Ministry of Health. Help Lebanon's third project was thus initiated spontaneously by friends who owned a laboratory and who placed their laboratory at the disposal of the organization. Three specialists began visiting schools and orphanages to examine the children's blood. Every day between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. the lab serves any child, free of charge, under 14 who needs medical tests or medical attention.

In 1983, when dislocation caused urgent social problems in the eastern sector, a group of volunteers from the organization, together with some social sciences students from the Lebanese University, conducted a study of water resources and arable land to create agricultural jobs for those who fled to al-Shuf, then for the residents of east Sayda. University officials obtained the results of the study. That same year, Help Lebanon formed an emergency group, as did all social organizations, to distribute clothing and food to the refugees and to place

those refugees in monasteries or homes. Various institutions cooperated in providing heating fuel, and continue to distribute donations to the refugees, particularly on Christmas and Easter. Gifts for the children dominated the first stage, which was followed by the distribution of clothing when the economic crisis worsened.

The fifth project, "Youth Against Drugs," was requested by President Bashir al-Jumayyil when he realized that addiction had spread in certain neighborhoods, schools and homes. Psychologists are seeking to promote awareness through two means: information and treatment. Every addict who comes for treatment is taken by the physician to the hospital. The physician then follows up on him for many months in order to reinstate him in society as an effective member. The tragedy is that there is no specialized treatment center; such a center is vital since a young person who returns to a corrupt environment becomes addicted again.

The sixth step was to establish a dental clinic, since dental care was expensive even before the current financial crisis. The clinic is in Help Lebanon's building in al-Ashrafiyah and serves children under 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., especially those from orphanages. Every month approximately 400 of these children visit the clinic, as do those of the neighborhood and the region, all free of charge. The physicians offer their services—at least on a part-time basis—upon graduation since opening their own clinics would be too expensive.

In 1987, Help Lebanon became concerned with tuition and conducted a study of the 1986-1987 tuition rates. It then decided to offer a 10,000-pound scholarship to 2,000 students (tuition ranged from 8,000 to 14,000 pounds.) This year, tuition has risen by more than 100 percent.

There is also a travel program for children which, Mrs. Tayyan stressed, is an invitation from friends, costing Help Lebanon nothing. The first trip took 500 children to France, over two summers; now the children go to Cyprus.

The project for 1989 is vocational training, particularly on the old hand loom, and Help Lebanon has obtained a 70-year old loom. There will also be training in embroidery, glass-blowing, copper-working and pottery-making for men and women who want additional work.

The question was raised, "Who works for Help Lebanon?" "There are 400 of us—including 12 administrators, 225 volunteers trained during summer vacations, 20 psychologists, 4 laboratory specialists, 6 working at the dental clinic, 60 in the emergency group, and 6 working on school grants. Only 23 of these are reimbursed for their transportation expenses."

Who provides the funds? "Some comes from Lebanese backers who never turn us down. Some comes from the French embassy and consulate in Lebanon and from the

Lebanese embassy in Paris, especially since al-Amir Faruq Abi-al-Lama' took over and made it possible for us to contact the French people and the Lebanese living abroad. Some comes from the West German embassy, the United States embassy, Lebanese banks, and large institutions. Travel to Cyprus is provided by Socomar in Lebanon and Daphnes in Cyprus, proprietors of the ship Empress. We have four primary backers in France: the newspaper L'EST REPUBLICAIN, the Social Agricultural Cooperative, Baron de Lassus who founded the Organization for Assisting the Christian Lebanese People, and UNESCO." 9882/9999

Opposition to Iran's Involvement in Lebanese Affairs Condemned

44040182A Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Mar 88 p 5

[Text] Hizballah has rejected Security Council Resolution No. 425, since it "is aimed at protecting Israel, not us. Anyone who supports this resolution goes against Imam Khomeini."

Hizballah held a first anniversary commemorative celebration to honor the memory of the resistance fighter Yusuf Hatun at Husayniyat Rawdat al-Shahidayn. Following a Qur'anic recitation, Shaykh Husayn Ghabris delivered a speech addressing "the Islamic position which has conquered all obstacles and political equations to please God, and whose proponents are the only God-fearing people." He also said that the uprising in the occupied territory has occurred because "Israel is an aggressor, and God says that the Jews are the greatest enemies of the believers." Turning to international resolutions, he said, "We reject Resolution 425 because it is aimed at protecting Israel, not us. For this reason Imam Khomeini has rejected it. Anyone who supports this resolution goes against Imam Khomeini."

Shaykh Ghabris called upon "our brethren to stop bickering and to unite their positions with the battle rifle of Islam against Israel. They should take a stand on America and its agents in the region since our issues can't take any more of this."

The Islamic Resistance commemorated the first annual memorial for the fighter Bassam 'Abbas at Imam al-Sadiq mosque in Bi'r Hasan with a Qur'anic recitation. Mr. 'Ali Yusuf delivered an address on behalf of "the martyrs' brothers." Shaykh Muhammad al-Miqdad said "...People must clarify their position—either with Islam and this Islamic reality or against Islam. We must be courageous and tell all others that we are with Islam and no other. We must not plaster ourselves with the slogans we have heard from some who profess Islam but do not consider Imam Khomeini their leader, who are not part of Islam, and who consider Iran's intervention in certain movements to be foreign intervention. These in our view are not Muslims; they are people who want to trick others and confuse them about their religion..."

"These are the ones responsible for our present misfortune. Those who seek positions are the cause of our affliction. Did we not suffer too much from the previous feudal state to have a new feudal state in a new disguise and with new names?...We do not care about how many ministers or deputies we have; we want it all, and we will fight to get what we want."

9882

OMAN

Land Forces Excel in Shooting Competition

45000072 Muscat AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 April 88 p 4

[Text] Yesterday morning, a number of platoons from units of the Northern Oman Brigade competed in a multipurpose machinegun firing contest at the 'Izz region firing range. The platoons' marksmen achieved direct hits on the targets and the competition was characterized by precise aiming. The Al-Jabal [Mountain] Battalion placed first and received the Northern Oman Brigade Cup. Brigadier General Yusuf Ibn-Khalfan al-Bu-Sa'idi, leader of the Northern Oman Brigade, distributed the honorary prizes to the participating marksmen. A number of battalion and unit commanders, officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the Sultan of Oman's land forces attended the contest. The firing contest was held within the Sultan's armed forces' routine cyclical training programs in which the proud men strengthen their abilities in the various arts of war.

SUDAN

Officials Study Problems of Chemical Industry

44040208c Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
16 Apr 88 p 7

[Article by Ahmad Haydar: "For 3 Days Prime Minister Discusses the Situation at the Chemical Establishment With Technicians, Relevant Authorities; Important Resolutions Taken To Enable the Establishment To Achieve its Production Goals"]

[Text] The meetings which Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi initiated, which lasted 3 days and during which he met with all the authorities concerned, especially with the directors and technicians of the Public Chemical Industries Establishment, were no ordinary meetings. The prime minister wanted to familiarize himself with the actual work situation in the public sector establishments, including the chemical establishment which is one of the most important public establishment whose activity is related directly to the citizens' interests.

Accordingly, the meetings reflected the government's eagerness to have the industrial sector effectively keep pace with the economic development process in general by enabling its establishments to continue to contribute and produce and by overcoming all the obstacles to this goal.

The fact is that since its creation in 1975, the chemical establishment has led in the production of the most important goods, including fertilizers, human and veterinary drugs, baby food, tanned leathers, glass for cars and buildings, household glassware and earthenware, light bulbs, cardboard, detergents, greenhouses, shoes, car and tractor tires, plastic sheets for irrigation canals, plastic greenhouses and other products. What interests us in those meetings is their examination of the actual situation and the solutions they adopted to immediately tackle the situation.

Overcoming Obstacles

It is said that "there is no industry without problems." Similarly, there is no better way to solve any problem than to have it tackled immediately and carefully by technicians who discuss it in the presence of all the parties concerned and who, consequently, make the appropriate decisions regarding specific problems and offer the right solution. When the individuals concerned attend a meeting with the state's highest executive authority, they come reassured that they will find solutions for the problems of their factories and plants through calm discussions and dialogue and through a detailed review of the situation. In successive meetings during a 3-day period, the prime minister discussed with company directors, technicians and relevant authorities the situation at the chemical establishment to find out its problems and to familiarize himself with the means capable of solving all the existing problems in order to make the sound and correct decision.

Addressing the participants, al-Zu'bi said: Through these meetings, we will study the actual conditions of the industrial public sector's establishments and how to overcome the difficulties facing them in order to improve these conditions.

These plenary meetings are very beneficial by virtue of the fact that they include numerous technicians who familiarize us with the real picture of these establishments and their companies, thus enabling us to familiarize ourselves with our real capabilities to carry out decisions. Implementation must always be compatible with the capabilities.

We must truly examine the difficulties and must determine the capabilities that enable us to overcome the difficulties.

The prime minister then talked about the importance of the chemical industries sector and about the need to bolster and strengthen this sector and to increase its production so that it may meet the needs of the local market and may turn out a surplus for exportation. He underlined the government's interest in this sector and its efforts to secure its material and technical needs.

Tamico's Situation

It is well known that the Arab Drug Company, Tamico, specializes in producing human and veterinary drugs, baby food and other products. The company's production lines are operating well, thus increasing the production volume of the most important products. The company seeks to achieve full production capacity for all its production lines in 1988. But this goal requires providing funds in foreign currency. The meeting discussed the problems and difficulties faced by the company.

It became evident that what the company needs is to secure foreign currency and to set a proper price for its products so as to realize a margin of profit. The prime minister has instructed that all the drug company's needs be met because drugs are as important as food. As for the price issue, the prime minister said: When a drug is made available and its price is raised, it is a good development and people will accept it. But when a drug is unavailable and we talk about raising its price, such a situation is totally unacceptable. We are discussing the company's production plan and the means to achieve it. The company must determine the decisions that need to be made by any authority so that such decisions may be made immediately. In fact, several important decisions have been made and we believe that they can help achieve the plan.

A most important issue raised by Majid al-Qudsi [not further identified] is the issue of encouraging the innovative pharmacists working in the company because they developed recently 13 drug products. It is unreasonable to pay such pharmacists ordinary wages and efforts must be made to pay them respectable wages that assure them of a living standard compatible with their creativity and their contribution. In this connection, the prime minister said: As long as the issue concerns creativity, we in the government have embraced this concept and adopted the resolutions made by the national creativity conference. We will work to encourage creativity. Therefore, the officials concerned are required to submit written and justified proposals and must set the amount of the reward sought. We are prepared to approve and disburse the reward. There is absolutely no problem. There is no reason to prevent you from encouraging those who are creative and productive.

Chemical Detergents Company

The Detergents Company produces all kinds of powder and liquid detergents. It has recently begun the production of a bath shampoo and cleaning pastes. The company's production lines are new, considering that the company began actual production in 1980. However, the company has not been able to reach its contractual capacity or even its available capacity which amounts to 28,000 tons. This failure is due to a number of technical problems and to bottlenecks in the production phases.

The percentage of imported raw materials involved in manufacturing the company's products amounts to 80 percent. This means that the added value, including local materials, labor and other elements, amounts to 20 percent which, in turn, means that the company needs large sums in foreign currency to be able to achieve its plan. The company products are high-quality products but their prices are low when compared with similar products manufactured by the private sector. As a result, the company products are smuggled, repackaged under different names, mixed with other products of lower quality and sold for large profits. What is important in the discussions that were held is that the government has agreed to provide the foreign currency needed to achieve the company's production plan which meets the local market needs and produces a surplus for exportation. Consequently, the company will be able to achieve self-sufficiency through the export revenues it earns.

Damascus Glass Company

This is a well-established company in the glass industry. The company incorporates four plants which produce plain glass, granulated glass, clay and glass pots and cardboard packages. New production lines were added and started operating in early 1980. These lines consist of three furnaces for the production of plain and granulated glass and glass bottles. The earthenware plant was developed with the addition of a new furnace which started producing in 1985. Production data show that the company is encountering difficulty in achieving its plants' maximum production capacities due to the supplier's failure to deliver the plants in accordance with the agreed contractual terms. The company has, with the supervision of custodial authorities and the use of local expertise, overcome numerous technical problems. Our workers and technicians have been able to rival the foreign experts and to reactivate a number of idle production lines, such as al-Qadam plant which produces plain glass, the bottles plant and the silicate plant.

The most significant problem facing the company is the problem of the low wages paid its workers even though this is an important industry that relies on high individual and technical skills. The plants often experience a manpower drain because of their low wages. The private sector attracts the workers of these plants and pays them manyfold the wages paid by the government. As a consequence, foreign expertise has to be imported and paid in foreign currency. The wages of a foreign worker may amount to more than 30,000 Syrian pounds [annually]. This big difference in wages has a negative impact on the local worker, keeping in mind that our worker is more skilled than the foreigner. However, the laws permit us to pay the foreigner whatever he demands while setting for our workers wage limits which we cannot exceed.

We believe that increasing the wages of the glass company workers will motivate these workers to exert utmost efforts to increase production and turn out a surplus for

exportation. It is well known that our pottery and glass products are famous, well-established and in demand and that their markets are secure. There is nothing to prevent exportation when the product is available. This availability is largely tied to the workers' wages. The conferees underlined the importance of this projection and it was agreed to form a committee comprised of several representatives to study the glass workers' wages, to formulate the proper solution and to advance the company by supplying it with the foreign currency it needs and by encouraging its workers so that the company may reach the export level, may achieve self-sufficiency and may meet the needs of other sectors.

Aleppo Light Bulbs Company

This company controls two plants, one for the production of glass and another for the production of electric light bulbs. Despite the presence of numerous technical problems resulting from the supplier's failure to deliver the production lines in accordance with the approved contractual specifications, the company could have achieved the maximum possible production capacity. But this did not happen because of the failure to supply the production needs and to provide the needed credit facilities. It is worth noting that 80 percent of the production needs are imported. However, the amount of money which the company needs to purchase these requirements is not large and does not exceed \$2 millions annually. This amount is enough to enable the company plants to operate at the rate of two shifts [daily]. Last year, only a small part of the amount needed was allocated. Consequently, the implementation rate did not exceed 24 percent of what was planned. The company is also experiencing a shortage of technical expertise. As a result, it needs to invite foreign experts to perform certain tasks and to supervise the production lines. The prime minister's office has agreed to let the company conclude contracts with foreign experts for a set period of time. The prime minister has stressed the importance of re-attracting and re-employing workers who quit their jobs after acquiring official approval for the purpose. A committee headed by the deputy prime minister for services affairs has been entrusted to study the incentives issue and to make the proper decision in this regard so that these decisions may become a working guide for all the companies.

Al-Zu'bi also underlined the importance of exporting products after the production needs are made available, stressing that this is the right solution that enables any company to achieve self-sufficiency through the foreign currency revenues it earns from its exports. He also stressed the importance of reducing the time to build the new furnace whose construction will begin shortly from six to four months. Our workers have proven their worthiness in more than one site and have reduced the time required. This is not too much for them.

We are confident of our workers and we are certain that developing a solution for the company's problems will

motivate the workers to increase production and to export the company products so as to realize a big surplus in foreign currency.

Paints Company

This company produces all kinds of oil, water and industrial paints. A large variety of imported raw materials are part of the production. It became evident at the meeting that the company has not been able to achieve its production plan due to a number of reasons, the most important of which is foreign currency. In the wake of objective discussions, it was decided to reexamine the company's position, to assess its work and to submit a report showing the foreign currency it needs to operate at maximum capacity.

Aleppo-Damascus Rubber and Plastics Companies

These companies produce plastic sheets for irrigation canals, plastic greenhouses, sports shoes, drainage and water pipes, boxes, plastic bags and ballpoint pens. Some of them produce plastic shoes and boots, rubber spare-parts and other products.

The meeting reviewed the production situation in all these companies. The fundamental common problem facing them is the shortage of foreign currency and, consequently, the shortage of production requirements which prevent the companies from implementing their production plan. It has been decided, therefore, to allocate the foreign currency needed to purchase the requirements and to designate a part of the production for exportation so that the company can purchase its needs with the foreign currency it earns from its exports. The prime minister has instructed that the production of plastic greenhouses be confined to the government's public establishments and has stressed that these establishments must export their products because we can dispense with the local use of greenhouses (for out-of-season production).

Aleppo-Damascus Tannery

The company's most significant problem is its inability to secure its leather needs from the local market because the private sector refuses to deliver the hides it produces for the state due to the big difference in prices. Moreover, the rising price of hides in neighboring countries has encouraged smuggling hides from Syria to the outside world despite the decision restricting the exportation of hides to state agencies. But hides are exported illegally and this exportation saddles the national economy with a big loss. This is why the prime minister stressed to the authorities concerned, including the Ministry of Industry, that it is necessary to develop the means to encourage the citizens to deliver hides to the state in accordance with flexible procedures that are profitable to both sides. He also stressed the need to conclude contracts with accredited agents in the countryside. The technicians noted that the experiment of

accredited agents has recently proven its failure, thus motivating the company to purchase hides directly. (But the seller refuses to provide an invoice before the purchase is concluded) whereas the purchasing committees need documents in order to be able to disburse payable sums. It was also decided at the meeting to reaffirm the prime minister's directive banning the slaughtering of animals in slaughterhouses charged with violations.

Paper Company

The participants heard a presentation by this company's general director on what has been done to implement the measures adopted at the special meeting held 2 months ago to discuss the company's work situation. The director pointed out that the experiments to put a (Copeland) reactor into operation continue and said that there are several parties which compete in collecting used paper and that as a result, the company's store of this paper is small. The participants offered several ideas on the collection of used paper and it was decided to study the issue in special future meetings.

Fertilizer Company

A special meeting was arranged for this company in which lengthy discussions were held by virtue of the importance of fertilizers to the agricultural process. The company director reviewed the company's work situation and the steps taken to enable the company to implement its 1988 production plan so as to supply the fertilizers the brother farmers need at the right time. The work situation in each of the company's sections was reviewed separately. Work is proceeding well in the nitrogenous acid department. This acid is used in the production of the ammonium nitrates fertilizer.

The (Kalintro?) department is currently operating at 75 percent its capacity and will operate at full capacity in the near future.

The urea section is currently producing 1,050 tons. If this section is to operate at full capacity, a certain amount in foreign currency is needed.

The triple fertilizer plant is experiencing two kinds of problems, 60 percent of which are technical and 40 percent are general problems. The general director explained both types of problems and reviewed all the technical problems and the workers' situation. The prime minister has instructed that all the Fertilizer Company's foreign currency needs be supplied in order that the company's work may not be obstructed, considering that any interruption will compel us to import.

Accountability

At the conclusion of the meetings, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered an address in which he said:

We have familiarized ourselves with the actual situation and have adopted several resolutions and we hope that each of you will implement what we have agreed on. We must have true faith and enthusiasm. Real magic is man's ability and his belief in what he does. There are in our factories and companies numerous examples which confirm that nothing is impossible for our workers.

We must all exert efforts to operate our sectors rationally. As for agriculture, most of its requirements have been secured and we will not hold back in securing anything it needs. There are good owners. The distribution of tractors to the brother farmers has begun.

The fertilizer plant has begun to operate and its productivity is increasing daily. We are now exporting the fuel that used to be consumed for the production of fertilizers. We have also begun to export cement and the establishment has concluded contracts to export nearly two million tons.

As for drugs, the basic drugs are available in the country. We will supply the drug plants with all their requirements so that they may achieve full capacity because drugs are, in our view, as important as food and drink. We are optimistic that work performance will improve and will be more productive. Even if bottlenecks are experienced by the detergents or the paints company, we can, with the workers' efforts, export our products and overcome the bottlenecks. We will secure the glass companies' needs. Though the paper plant is experiencing well-known difficulties, several endeavors are being made to overcome them. We will develop the right solution because the paper plant is, despite all its problems, one of the country's major industrial bases.

There are certain practices that must be brought to account. We may not lose confidence in our plants and our workers. We are responsible for dealing with the errors made in any plant. We must pay attention to the positive factors, must confine the negative factors and must tackle them firmly and calmly.

The better and more advanced the production becomes, the better our workers' conditions become. Therefore, you may not separate yourselves from the workers. You must explain the difficulties to them and show them how to tackle such difficulties. Cooperation between you is essential and important. Each of you must perform his role in shouldering the responsibility. The administrative committee has its role, and so does the party organization and the unionist organization. Every worker should defend his plant as he defends his home and his honor. You are required to respect and love the establishment. You must be vigilant enough to shoulder the responsibility.

I hope that your work will be careful and that you will take advantage of the work time. Your work is your source of support. Personal and public relations are important but they may not overwhelm the work because a man's work is his honor.

We have many resources in Syria and we must rely on ourselves to exploit them because we are working for our future and our children's future. The stronger our economy grows, the stronger and firmer our policy becomes.

Finally, the discussions held during the meetings set aside for the public chemical establishment and the resolutions taken to tackle the existing problems must be implemented. They must also motivate all the workers of the establishment's companies to increase production and to turn out a surplus for exportation. Gradually, the establishment and its companies may be able to secure their production requirements from their export revenues.

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TUNISIA

Japan Grants Credit Line up to 7 Billion Yen
45190045a Tunis LA PRESSE in French 19 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Ahmed Ben Arfa, secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs in charge of international cooperation, and Atsuya Suzuki, charge d'affaires at the Japanese Embassy in Tunis, yesterday signed an exchange of notes in which the Japanese Government grants Tunisia an unrestricted public credit totaling 7 billion yen, the equivalent of 42 million in drawing rights. The credit is to be used to support the Tunisian economy's structural adjustment program. The long-term credit, granted on very favorable conditions from the standpoint of its duration, is the first of the type which the Japanese Government is making available to Tunisia. In remarks made on the occasion, Ben Arfa expressed his pleasure in signing the agreement and in the imminent opening in Tunis of a Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which, he said, is an unquestionable expression of the two countries' determination to promote bilateral cooperation. For his part, the Japanese diplomat emphasized the high level of cooperation between Tunisia and Japan. He also stressed the constant efforts which Tunisia is making toward a more balanced and harmonious development of its economy. He told of his government's willingness to support the programs of the new Tunisian era in the economic and social fields.

11,464/9738

Ben Ali Announces Salary Increases
45190045c Tunis LA PRESSE in French 19 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] At Carthage Palace yesterday morning, President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali presided over an interministerial meeting attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, a meeting devoted to further examination of the wage and price dossier.

The different aspects of the dossier were reviewed at the meeting. Based on the regular price adjustments provided for this year in phases and at reasonable rates and

with a concern for creating conditions that will strengthen the economic recovery, the chief of state decided upon the following measures:

Effective 1 April 1988, applying the increases of 5 percent for the interoccupational guaranteed minimum wage and 150 millimes a day for the agricultural guaranteed minimum wage announced at the end of last year;

Increasing wages in public enterprises in two phases: 3 percent of the wage mass served effective 1 April 1988 and 3 percent in 1989. Such increases will come about within the framework of the performance bonus in accordance with what was decided upon this year for the civil service;

Granting a second increase in the performance bonus for the civil service effective 1 January 1989, this increase being equal to that granted this year. This will make it possible to double the performance bonus compared with the 1987 rate;

Encouraging the private sector to adjust the wage schedule to improve its structure and protect the level of specialized professional categories on the wage scale;

Asking the private sector to grant a wage increase at a minimum rate of 3 percent of the wage mass to help professional classifications that did not benefit from the increase in the interoccupational guaranteed minimum wage.

In addition, the president recommended that suitable measures be taken to help needy families and, effective next month, release new portions of aid set aside for such families.

It should be recalled that in our 5 March issue, we had already announced the principle of this wage increase decided upon yesterday by the chief of state.

We described the agreement reached by the social partners following debate. We also stated that the increase would affect the private sector and public enterprises governed by collective agreements and would be on the order of 3 percent of the wage mass.

11,464/9738

Party Restructuring Process Described
45190042a Tunis LA PRESSE in French 4 Mar 88 p 3

[Article by K.B.]

[Text] On Saturday, the RCD (Democratic Constitutional Rally) concluded the work of its Central Committee with the publication of a general policy motion. The motion was drafted based on five reports presented by the different committees (Charter, Program, Structures, Youth, Cadre Orientation and Party Press).

It is believed that the committee reports will be reviewed and corrected in the light of debate which took place during the work of the Central Committee. They will soon be made public along with all decisions made concerning the future of the RCD. The Committee on Structures appears to be the most important of the five. Reforms proposed by that committee will probably also be implemented, sources say.

Reorganization of the RCD will affect rank-and-file as well as leadership structures. While a return to their roots (pre-independence) can be observed in the case of certain structures, there is also a substantial innovation in the leadership structure.

Rank-and-File Structures

First Innovation: Formation of the "Khalaya"

To be set up on a territorial, professional, cultural or social basis and upon the recommendation of the cell (Chooba), they will be made up of at least ten members and must choose one or no more than three coordinators.

Cell

The cell will be either territorial or professional and will be made up of at least 200 members if territorial and from 20 to 50 if professional. It will be based on criteria to be established by the RCD Political Bureau, depending on the size of the company. Distribution of tasks will be by consent or secret balloting.

District (Faraa)

It will be made up of 11 members plus a representative of the Destourian Youth (to use the old name) and a member representative. Its task will be to approve the formation of cells and the establishment of the chooba. It will also include the coordination of cooperation among Rally structures and the different national and professional organizations.

Federation

Its members will be mission chiefs whose number will be set by the Political Bureau, which will appoint a general secretary to head it. There will also be an elected youth director and a member representative.

Federal Council

The Federal Council will be set up at the level of the economic regions to represent the Political Bureau in them. Its general secretary will be an alternate member of the Political bureau. It will also include the general secretaries of the federations.

Leadership Structures

President of the RCD

The president of the RCD will be elected by the congress and should the post fall vacant, the Central Committee must convene within 2 weeks to elect the new president.

National Congress

The National Congress is the highest organ of the RCD. It will define goals, drawn up the plan of action, outline programs and draft Rally policies. It will meet once every 5 years. The Political Bureau determines the date of that meeting and draws up the agenda.

It will be made up of the president of the RCD, the members of the Central Committee and Chooba representatives who will be elected based on criteria set forth by the Political Bureau.

At its first meeting, the National Congress will elect a president, bureau and auxiliary committees, including the committee to validate candidacies. It will be the task of the congress to study the reports of the different committees and, following their approval, pass them on to the Political Bureau. It is empowered to introduce any reform it deems necessary on the internal constitution of the Rally.

Central Committee

The Central Committee will include the president, members of the government, the chairman of the membership Advisory Council, the general secretaries of the federations and of the Destourian Youth, a representative of the Destourian Students, an additional member for each federation and a number of members to be set by the Political Bureau before the National Congress meeting. This number will be set on the basis of 1 representative for every 10,000 members of the RCD and considering the average number of party members during the years between two congresses. Central committee members will be elected by the National Congress.

Advisory Structures

Along with these structures, consideration is reportedly also being given to the creation of a National Council to be an advisory organ. In addition to the members of the Central Committee, it will include representatives of the national and people's organizations and three representatives for every federation. The council will meet at the request of the Political bureau to study the country's economic, political and social situation and render its opinion.

11,464/9738

Agreement To Create Joint Trade Companies With UAE Signed

45190045b Tunis LA PRESSE in French 22 Mar 88 p 4

[Text] A cooperation agreement between the Tunisian Trade Office (OCT) and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry was signed at a ceremony held Sunday morning in Tunis, presided over by Salaheddine Ben M'barek, minister of national economy.

In the presence of the ambassador from the United Arab Emirates in Tunis, the agreement was signed for Tunisia by Salah Hamdi, OCT board chairman, and for Abu Dhabi by Said Ahmed Outeiba, chairman of the Chamber's board of directors.

On that occasion, Ben M'barek delivered remarks in which he expressed satisfaction with the excellent results of the visit to Tunisia made by the delegation from the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and stressed the interest of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the Tunisian Government in strengthening cooperation with the government of the United Arab Emirates, which maintains excellent fraternal relations with Tunisia.

The minister expressed the hope that the agreement will further consolidate relations existing between the Abu Dhabi Chamber and similar organizations in Tunisia so as to promote contacts between businessmen from the two brother countries and help them know one another.

He also evoked the broad prospects existing for an intensification of cooperation between the two countries and revealed the measures taken by Tunisia to liberalize the economy and encourage Arab and foreign investment in the country.

The document signed mentions the agreement by both sides to strengthen commercial trade through the formation of a joint marketing company and a study for the possible creation of a joint ocean-shipping company.

The agreement also stipulates that a study be made of the proposal made by the Tunisia-Emirates Investment Bank concerning the creation of a joint company and mentions the agreement in principle made by the two parties concerning Tunisia's participation in Abu Dhabi's international fair and the organization of a Tunisian week in that same city.

11,464/9738

Renewable Energy Project Underway in Sejnane

45190042c Tunis LA PRESSE in French 12 Mar 88 p 3

[Article by Emna Menif]

[Excerpts] Renewable energy has occupied the forefront of the scientific scene for several years now. Tunisia is following in the path of the developed countries and is

trying to benefit from the considerable contribution of such forms of energy in planning ahead for the post-oil period. A program of Tunisian-German technical cooperation, falling within the framework of a project to develop rural zones, came into being in 1982 to permit the materialization of what has heretofore been theory.

Through the German Ministry of Technical Cooperation, the German Government has taken responsibility for financing of the operation sponsored by ENIT [National Engineers and Technicians School] under the direction of Professor Rapp. The mission of Professors Rapp and Vinoli, his assistant, is mainly to train Tunisian professors to teach that discipline and train specialized technicians. They also direct a laboratory of applied research into renewable forms of energy at which Tunisian researchers are employed.

Solar energy can be used in three ways. For heating water, first of all, it can replace 80 percent of all other energy sources. Vinoli stated in this connection that the panels manufactured in Tunisia are of very good quality. Such energy can also be used to heat buildings. By using certain procedures, this use may even extend to old buildings. Finally, solar power can be a source of electricity: the photovoltaic cell now being used in rural areas. Two problems exist: the interposition of shores and the lack of sunlight at night. The major problem remains the high cost of such an operation. The same question also exists for aeolian energy still undergoing experimentation at ENIT.

Accomplishments

Since 1982, these projects have been partly carried out. A total of 13 digesters have already been set up at Sejnane with a capacity of 10 to 23 cubic meters of manure. The installation of 1 cubic meter of digester comes to 100 to 160 dinars amortized over an average period of 5 years (based on energy consumption), after which the facility remains viable for some 50 years, supplying free energy.

For the time being, only Sejnane has been able to take advantage of such digesters. However, work continues in order to train other technicians specializing in the installation and maintenance of equipment, while at the same time extending the application to other forms of waste.

11,464/9738

New Agricultural Investment Code Explained

45190042b Tunis LA PRESSE in French 1 Mar 88 p 3

[Article by B.K.]

[Text] A total of 978 projects and 222 million dinars in investments: Such is the record of the scarcely 6 years of existence of the Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency (APIA).

This institution has definitely fulfilled the mission entrusted to it since August 1982, but a great deal of water has gone under the bridge since that time. Changing times have also brought other problems and priorities. The texts encouraging agriculture and agricultural investments must therefore be revised.

The decision was not long in coming and Chamber of Deputies committees are now at work on the new Agricultural Investment Code.

Incentives

First of all, the new code broadens the notion of investments in the agricultural and fishing sectors to departments under these two sectors and the modernization of investments.

The code also defines incentives to be granted to promote the export of agricultural products and those from the sea and what encouragement is to be given so as to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture and food: the exemption of profits from priority-type activities from the tax on industrial and commercial profits and the corporate profits tax; a 30-percent reduction in the taxable amount of the CPE; a drop in interest rates on loans granted for investment in priority activities, this in addition to a bonus given for projects relating to water and land conservation, an increase in areas devoted to forage crops and the establishment of grazing zones.

Priority activities will concern grain crops, milk, meat, olive oil and ocean products. Regarding agricultural activities aimed at the export market, plans include an exemption of profits from export activities from the industrial and commercial profits tax and the corporate profits tax.

The code also provides for the exemption of profits from sales on the local market in the amount of 20 percent.

In addition, the new code provides for a 40-percent reduction in the net from export operations subject to the CPE.

Small and Medium-Size Investors

In order to help small and medium-size agricultural investors and those in the fishing sector who experience difficulties in finding the self-financing needed to receive loans (which varies from 16 to 24 percent of the investment total), the self-financing rate will be reduced to 10 percent, including 15 percent as a bonus and 75 percent in the form of credits. The code also proposes raising the age for eligibility for privileges and the granting of financial incentives for investment within the framework of Law No 67 of 1982 to 40. (Previously, one had to be under 35 to be considered as a young promoter or investor.)

Among measures under consideration is the incentive given to agricultural engineer and those in fishing to acquire farmland to establish their own operation or participate in development companies. This will be done through loans with very advantageous conditions.

Development Companies

New measures will be taken to encourage promoters to invest in national lands through development companies: extension of the national lands leasing period to 40 years so as to enable promoters to amortize their capital and profit from investments; an end to technical and financial supervision through government auditors, who will be replaced by the APIA and the OTD (National Land Office) for technical follow-up. The tutelage company will handle financial supervision.

Increasing Incentives

Along with all these benefits, the new code would unify incentives enjoyed by the same types of profits in a single text, while introducing substantial improvements.

Tax Benefits

Regarding individuals, up to 70 percent of the profits (which will be reinvested in operations to increase capital) will be exempt from payment of the CPE. For corporations, the exemption will involve taxes on industrial and commercial profits or the corporate profit tax or the tax on noncommercial trades. According to the newly drafted code, this is also true of reinvestment in agriculture and fishing. The newly proposed agricultural investment code also provides for a reduction in the rate of customs duties and temporary amnesty for turnover taxes to which investors are subject in the case of imported equipment for livestock, fertilizer products, fish breeding and seed. This amnesty is no longer valid if the same product exists on the local market.

Amnesty is also provided for the industrial and commercial profits tax and the corporate profits tax for the first 10 years after the production phase begins. The tax rate will be only 5 percent from the 11th to the 15th year of production.

Financial Incentives

The government will shoulder the burden of spending needed for project studies in a proportion of 1 percent of the total amount of the investment, although that amount is not to exceed a sum to be set by decree.

The new agricultural investment code also provides for a reduction in the rate of bank loans granted to the investor. There is also a question of granting him a bonus of 15 percent of the total value of the investment for B-type projects. A bonus would also be granted for

investments in areas such as water conservation (drip irrigation projects), grain irrigation, protection of water and the land, forage seed and the establishment of grazing land.

Special Incentives

In order to provide more incentives so that land will not be parceled, the new code proposes that the Chamber of Deputies grant land credits for farmers and promoters of agricultural projects for the purchase of the shares of their possible partners in an agricultural inheritance.

11,464/9738

Aid to Livestock Raisers

45190042d Tunis LE TEMPS (Hebdo) in French
29 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] At the meeting of the follow-up committee, presidential measures were taken against the drought. Amor Ben Ramdhane, secretary of state to the minister of agricultural and foodstuff production, revealed that the

worth of Tunisian livestock is an estimated 900 million dinars, producing 300 million dinars in meat and dairy products annually. Nearly 10 million dinars were therefore devoted to protecting this resource, including 6.8 million dinars to help small breeders who have less than 25 head of livestock.

11,464/9738

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Mission Conducts Arms Talks With Chinese

Beirut AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Apr 88 p11

[Text] The Chinese are knocking at the doors of North Yemen. A diplomatic report sent to an official authority in Beirut reported that a Yemeni military mission secretly went to Peking, where talks for buying advanced weapons such as missiles were held. This step from the Yemenis came as a result of tensions in relations between Sanaa' and Riaydh, and between Sanaa' and Aden.

AFGHANISTAN

Women's Role Examined

46000135 Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English
9 Mar 88 p 4

[Article by H. Khoramani]

[Excerpt] The victory of the national democratic April Revolution was accompanied by a series of socio-political changes which provided favourable grounds especially for improvement of women's conditions, enforcement of their rights and freedoms and their active participation in the socio-political life of the country.

The following table would give an idea of the qualitative and quantitative strength of women's involvement in various spheres of today's life in Afghanistan.

Women in education and professions

(1988 statistics)

Teachers	22.000
Students	233.000
Skilled workers	4000
Students of higher Ed. institutions	7133
Nurses	3000
Doctors	300
Engineers	700

These figures are not big but they certainly demonstrate the rapid advance, in the position of women as compared to previous decades. For example, the number of girl students in higher educational institutions has increased seven times compared to the 70s, and the increase among girl students in public schools exceeds 70,000.

Today women are extensively employed in educational, cultural, public health service, and in industrial establishments.

In handicrafts and agriculture too, the number of women employees has increased drastically. A wide network of women's clubs has been established in urban and rural areas, where housewives attend courses in literacy, tailoring, rug-weaving, cooking, nursing etc.

Motherhood used to be regarded as a major handicap to drawing women to work outside and away from home. With the establishment of creches, nurseries and kindergartens in residential areas and in productive and state institutions this is no longer a stumbling block any more.

In state and political affairs also Afghan women's role is today fairly well established.

Article 38 of the Constitution of the republic of Afghanistan has guaranteed equal rights of women. It says: "Citizens of Afghanistan, both men and women, have equal rights and duties in the eyes of the law, irrespective of their national, racial, linguistic, tribal, educational and social status, religion, creed, political conviction, occupation, kinship, wealth and residence."

So does the labour law provide for equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

Nevertheless, there is still a long way ahead to fully establish women's status in the country. Though women make half the population of the country, they still occupy a marginal place in the socio-economic life of the Afghan society. Still great majority of them are illiterate. The facilities to enjoy their rights and privileges differ drastically between urban and rural areas.

On the other hand, the inferior status of women in the society is deeply rooted in ancient traditions and customs which cannot be ignored or under-estimated.

The objective realities and experiences gained in the 20th century in enhancing women's role in the Afghan society have tended to make the state rely on gradual change and on a voluntary basis as regards the growth and development of women's programmes.

Certainly the growth of women's participation in educational and economic spheres would not only increase the level of their active participation in the society in future but will also help forming new perceptions about women in the whole society as well.

A massive involvement of women in the society needs to be accompanied with major developments in the economy, living standard of families and emergence of more liberal social perceptions about the new role of women, an active role.

/9738

BANGLADESH

BNP Official Tells of Visits to UK, U.S.

46001414 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
10 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Visit to US, UK Successful says B. Choudhury"]

[Text] Prof Badruddoza Choudhury, Vice-chairman of BNP, who returned home on Friday after a three-week visit to the United States and Britain, yesterday described his trip to the two countries as successful.

Our objective was to remove the smokescreen created by the government functionaries abroad on the political situation in the backdrop of March 3 elections, he told newsmen at the BNP central office.

Prof Choudhury met the newsmen to describe the outcome of a two-member party delegations visit to the US and the British capital that coincided with a similar trip by Dr Kamal Hossain, a senior member of Awami League presidium, to Washington.

The BNP vice-chairman refuted the Government's allegations that they indulged in anti-state activities abroad maligning the country. Our purpose was to project the truth concerning the situation in Bangladesh following the visit by Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury. Those who concealed the truth abroad, saying that 50 to 70 per cent people had voted in the elections and that democracy is being practiced in Bangladesh have acted against the nations interests he remarked.

The BNP leader further said they had made it absolutely clear that the United States should not under any circumstances interrupt the food agricultural assistance to our country.

He said that in the past the Pakistani government always branded those who were fighting for democracy as anti-state elements. The list included A.K. Kazlul Huq, Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "We are in jolly good company if the Government wants to resort to old tactics of Pakistanis," he remarked.

About the visit to the United States Prof Choudhury said he had addressed two press conferences at Washington's National Press Club jointly with Dr Kamal Hossain, explaining the political situation in the Bangladesh. They also met influential Congressman Stephen J. Solarz and Senator Edward Kennedy, officials of the State Department, and leaders of Bangladeshi community. They also attended a discussion meeting on the United States policy and political situation in Bangladesh at Carnegie Endowment for Peace where participants included four former US ambassadors to Bangladesh. Prof Choudhury said during their meeting with Stephen J. Solarz, who is moving a resolution on aid to Bangladesh which is going to be debated on April 14 the US leader told them that his discussion with the Bangladeshi leaders was fruitful. We also told him that his efforts would help restore democracy in Bangladesh. The Solarz resolution provides that the US government should inform the Congress when appropriating aid to Bangladesh whether it fulfills five conditions. The conditions are whether there is a credible electoral system reflecting popular will, if the Government and the opposition can effectively work in a parliament, press freedom, properly elected local government bodies and independence of judiciary.

Prof Choudhury also presented to newsmen the copy of an editorial of the Voice of America which reflects the US governments views. The editorial was broadcast on March 26. On the situation in Bangladesh the editorial said the situation in Bangladesh deteriorated last year. A series of nationwide general strikes severely damaged the

economy. On November 27, President Ershad proclaimed a state of emergency. The Government restricted political activities and freedom of speech and assembly. Thousands of opposition activists were arrested. The Government imposed news ban on both foreign and domestic journalists and reporters for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was arrested and detained for two weeks. Parliament was dissolved on December 6, Bangladesh held new parliamentary elections on March 3, but they were seriously flawed. In addition to a very low voter turnout and electoral fraud, there was considerable violence, including several deaths. Every major political party, except the ruling Jatiya Party, boycotted the elections.

'It is tragic that the people of Bangladesh—who clearly value the human rights that only democracy can guarantee—have had so much difficulty in establishing a healthy democratic government. The US continues to encourage President Ershad and opposition leaders to work together to strengthen the democratic institutions in Bangladesh', the editorial ended.

/12223

Preparations for Paris Consortium Meet Reported

Aide Memorandum Reviewed

46001403 Dhaka *THE NEW NATION* in English
6 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: \$2200m Consortium Aid To Be Sought"]

[Text] Bangladesh will seek fresh aid commitment of 2200 million US dollars, consisting of 250 million dollars as food aid, 550 million dollars as commodity aid and 1400 million dollars as project aid, for the fiscal 1988-89.

The aid commitment requirements have been finalised by the External Resources Division (ERD) to achieve the aid disbursement target of 1764 million dollars for 1988-89. The disbursement package as envisaged by ERD in its aide memorandum for the Paris meeting of the Consortium on April 14 and 15 comprises 300 million dollars as food aid, 564 million dollars as commodity aid and 900 million dollars as project aid.

The memorandum projects the economy's growth rate for 1988-89 at 6.1 per cent as against 2.6 per cent, now estimated by the Planning Commission, for 1987-88.

A 12-member team to be led by Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (retd) A.K. Khandoker will represent the country at this year's Aid Club meeting in Paris. The team leaves Dhaka on April 10.

The ERD has, meanwhile, revised the estimate of aid commitment and disbursement for 1987-88. As the Government's Aide Memorandum shows, the revised estimate of aid commitments for the current financial

year is at 2,199.6 million dollars while that of disbursement at 1,708.6 million dollars. The original year—beginning projection about commitment and disbursement of external assistance for 1987-88 was 1,904, 1 million dollars and 1621 million respectively.

The revised estimate of commitment consists of 248.1 million dollars as food aid, 541.8 million dollars as commodity aid and 409.7 million dollars as project aid. The projection for these categories of aid for 1987-88 was 177.6 million dollars, 584.5 million dollars and 1142 million dollars respectively.

All commitment and disbursement figures referred to in the Aid Memorandum are in current US dollars.

Analysis the aid situation for 1987-88, the Aid Memorandum says that the upward revision of the estimate for both commitments and disbursements of food aid was because of additional requirement in view of damage of crop by the flood and relief operations. Many of the donors, according to the Memorandum responded to the call of the government and agreed to make fresh and additional commitment of fast disbursing food aid for the year.

The Memorandum notes that the revised disbursement estimate about commodity aid is slightly higher (by about five million dollars) than the original projection because of availability of larger aid in the pipeline. However, a shortfall against the estimated disbursement is likely in case of commodity aid if release of Second Tranche under Industrial Sector Credit of IDA is delayed and disbursement from other major donors like Japan, Canada, the UK and the FRG is not expedited. "Major shortfall in commitment estimate may also occur if, for any reason, agreement for Energy Sector Credit from IDA and Industrial Input Programme Credit from ADB cannot be signed within June 1988", the Memorandum points out.

About project aid, the Memorandum notes that the revised estimate of its disbursement for 1987-88 stands at 848 million dollars including 50 million dollars in the private sector. The projection for the year was 830 million dollars including 60 million dollars in the private sector. "The revised estimate of disbursement accounts for about 19.3 per cent of the opening pipeline and is 12.3 per cent lower compared to actual disbursement of 1986-87," the Memorandum observes.

Ershad Remarks to Cabinet

46001403 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
20 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Cabinet Finalises Draft Memo"]

[Text] A special meeting of the Council of Ministers yesterday considered and finalised the draft memorandum for submission to the Bangladesh Aid Consortium meeting scheduled to be held on April 14 and 15 in Paris, reports BSS.

The special Cabinet meeting chaired by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban while considering the draft emphasised on all out efforts for further increase in the growth rate of national economy during the next two years of the current Five-Year Plan period.

In his remarks encompassing all sectors of the national economy, President Ershad identified removal of poverty, increase of food production, speedier industrialisation, bringing about a balance in income and expenditure accounts, lessening dependence on foreign aid, better utilisation of foreign assistance, active role of the government in the selection of development projects, greater role of the Planning Commission in the evaluation of policies and macro-economic aspects, stress on family planning and increase of exports as the basic criterion to pursue the attainment of accelerated growth of economy.

President Ershad pointed out that the GNP growth rate during the 1987-88 fiscal year—the third year of the current plan period—has been affected by unprecedented floods and said as a result the overall performance of economy has fallen short of the projected growth of 5.4 per cent. He emphasised the need for increasing the growth rate during the next two years to make up the shortfall.

He observed that following the adoption of rural oriented economic policy being implemented through the upazila system, there has been some improvement in the condition of the rural people. With a view to bringing about further improvement in their condition, more employment opportunities have to be created, he said adding, though agriculture is still the major stay of national economy, but there are considerable scope of creating job opportunities in non-agriculture sector as the latter has saturated to match up with the increasing population.

The President said at the same time we have to strike a balance in the growth rate of our food production and population increase. He said all out efforts should be made to attain food autarky to reduce dependence on import of foodgrains thus to generate more resources for uplift by saving expenditure on import of food.

President Ershad referred to the government policy of encouraging the private sector and foreign investment in Bangladesh through package of incentives and liberalised procedure and said lack of efficiency and professionalism on the part of concerned authorities is responsible for lack of better performance of the private sector in the national economy. He said, the laws and incentives laid down for rapid industrialisation must be applied with increased efficiency and honesty by following the set-rules and avoiding application of discretion.

In this context, he said the foreign investment and private sector are, however, showing greater prospects for growth of national economy and more and more such entrepreneurs are coming forward being attracted by the incentives.

President Ershad said stability and political will for uplift and better management of state affairs have created greater confidence among the donors to come forward as partners in progress of Bangladesh with increased assistance and support. As a result, he said, foreign support to our national development pursuit is quite satisfactory, and added this confidence of our friends in our progress must be matched up with local efficiency and support.

He laid emphasis on strengthening the procedure of identification, planning and implementation of development projects within the country and said the Planning Commission may use the resources available with the concerned ministries and corporations and organisations in processing the policy and macro-economic aspects of projects in respective fields.

The President said endeavours are being made by the government to make its role more meaningful and effective in the pooling and utilisation on foreign resources for uplift. He asserted that discussions and exchange of views with the donors will be maintained for any project, but the ultimate decision will lie with us. We know our requirements, priority and welfare of our people better than others, he observed.

President Ershad said the non-government organisations can play a distinctive role in the uplift of socio-economic condition of the people.

He suggested utilisation of local consultancy in the fields where it is locally available to build up expert and technical workforce to the benefit of development.

However, he said, foreign consultants are welcome in sectors where we have dearth of expertise which will ultimately help us develop our own work force in those sectors.

The President mentioned the prestigious and much needed project of Jamuna multi-purpose bridge for establishing direct link between the western and eastern sides and asked the concerned authorities to gear up efforts for pooling resources for the scheduled implementation of the project.

He was happy at the satisfactory growth of exports and diversification of exportable items from traditional lists and called for further expansion of markets and items to revamp the economy as well as industrial growth.

Protocol on Foreign Minister's Visit to Thailand
46001405 Dhaka *THE NEW NATION* in English
21 Mar 88 p 3

[Article: Agreed Minutes With Bangkok Signed"]

[Text] Bangladesh and Thailand have taken definite steps for structured political consultations bridging the trade imbalance against Bangladesh and setting annual target of 100 million US dollars trade by 1988, according to the agreed minutes signed between the countries in Bangkok Friday, reports BSS.

The agreed minutes also took measures to enhance investment in the specific fields where Thai private sector is interested to go in for joint ventures, concretising technical cooperation and taking specific measures for promotion of cooperation in civil aviation, culture, banking and shipping.

The agreed minutes were signed by Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury and his Thai counterpart, Mr ACM Siddhi Savetsila at the end of the 3-day joint commission meeting of cooperation between Bangladesh and Thailand from March 16 to 18.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister, in his concluding statement, expressed satisfaction over the process and made specific reference to the agreement to have structured political consultations between the two countries on regular basis and decision to sign agreements on shipping, investment promotion and protection executive programme under cultural agreement and news exchange between the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), national news agency of Bangladesh, and the Thai news agency.

The Thai Foreign Minister also expressed satisfaction over the concrete proposals for correcting trade imbalance against Bangladesh and for giving impetus to further balanced expansion of bilateral trade. He also mentioned measures to promote joint ventures in industrial fields for intensification of economic cooperation.

The Thai Foreign Minister in his concluding statement, also expressed happiness over concrete results achieved during the three-day meeting which, he hoped, would further strengthen cooperation between the two countries. Mr Siddhi also mentioned in his speech the determination of two sides to intensify economic cooperation through joint ventures as well as on triangular basis investment. He mentioned about the shipping and other agreements which the two countries were going to sign in near future. He stated that exchange of views especially on Kampuchea, Afghanistan and South-South Cooperation had been fruitful.

The two sides have agreed that in view of shared common perceptions on various international economic and political issues the two countries would have structured political consultation on regular basis for exchange of views, understand each others position and initiate concerted steps.

In order to rectify imbalance the Commission have agreed to counter trade including special trading arrangement. Bangladesh side has offered for sale of raw jute, jute products, tea (packet tea, loose tea), electric cables, insulated cables-wires, newsprint, paper and paper products, bleached bamboo pulp, super enameled copperwire, pharmaceutical products, tobacco for blending, bitumen, naphtha, urea, seafood, crust and finished leather, China ware etc.

For expansion of trade volume the Thai side has expressed desire to sell textile and textile production, electrical machinery and equipment parts thereof, plastic and plastic products, natural rubber and rubber products, canned food, construction equipment and material (steel/pipes/tubes), aluminum and articles thereof, pulse, sugar, rice, cement, motored tricycle, long tail boat etc.

Thai side expressed willingness to facilitate to organise trade seminars by Bangladesh in Thailand. Both sides expressed desire to participate in trade fairs and disseminate information in each other's countries in the field of investment. Thailand has shown interest in joint venture in manufacturing of gas cylinder, manufacturing of pulp and paper using biogas as raw material and assembly of motor-tricycle.

Bangladesh side also offered possibilities of joint venture in the field of gas cylinder manufacturing, motor tricycle assembly, paper and pulp manufacturing, fisheries plant, animal feed plant, poultry feed plant polyster staple fiber plant, fabric manufacturing mill, yeast manufacturing plant mechanized boat building, leather-based industries, electronics etc.

The two sides have agreed to exchange industrial delegations and in this context Bangladesh side welcome the forthcoming visit by a Thai industrialist delegation led by Thai Minister for Industries.

In view of enhanced prospects of Foreign investment in Bangladesh, the two sides have agreed to conclude investment promotion and protection agreement.

New areas have been explored in the field of technical cooperation. Thai side has showed interest to get technical cooperation from Bangladesh in the field of gas development inland water transport jute and tea industrial development.

The Commission meeting expressed satisfaction over the initialing of shipping agreement which may be signed by the end of March and observed that this would facilitate

trade between the two countries. In field of culture, the two sides agreed to establish a joint committee between the two countries under the existing cultural agreement to expand cooperation in this field. Thai side also expressed its willingness to work on a detailed executive programme proposed by Bangladesh for signing by the end of March.

In the field of information it was noted that the flow of news between the two countries is very limited and in order to remove this impediment, the two sides are going to sign news exchange agreement between BSS and Thai news agency by the end of March.

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Ershad Addresses Jatiya Parliamentary Group
46001407 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in
English 2 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: "4th Parliament to Fulfil Peoples' Aspiration: Ershad"]

[Text] President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Friday evening said the fourth Parliament will play a historical role in advancing national progress, ensuring social peace and discipline and uphold rule of law fulfilling the aspirations of the electorates, reports BSS.

He said this Parliament will set a direction against attempts by vested quarters to create anarchy and indiscipline promoting politics of production, consolidating democratic and constitutional process and institutions.

The President who is also the Chairman of Jatiya Party was addressing the first meeting of the party's Parliamentary party at Committee Room number one at the Jatiya Sangsad complex.

Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed and Deputy Prime Minister and JP Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hosain also spoke. Deputy Prime Ministers—Prof. M.A. Matin and Kazi Zafar Ahmed were present.

President Ershad, in this context, categorically said the fourth Jatiya Sangsad will remain to discharge its historical duty till it continues to work for the welfare of the people and upholds the confidence of the electorates. He said the Sangsad has been elected by the people and refuted rumours that its life will be short.

The President reminded the JP parliament members of the eight-point objectives and said, each of us should go down in history by our deeds designed to the welfare of majority people and earn their love and confidence through our works.

He advised the JP parliament members to set examples of service to the people and upholding the causes of the nation. Otherwise, he observed every national effort to accelerate progress and establish rule of law will go futile.

President Ershad said the fourth Jatiya Sangsad is the explicit expression of the voters against all sorts of indiscipline, anarchy and terrorism. The electorates through the election have reposed their confidence on each of the members to strengthen production oriented politics promote efforts to alleviate poverty and attain the goal of self reliance in all sectors of national economy.

Referring to the context that led to the elections of the fourth Parliament, he said it was necessitated to end the politics of negation and anarchy and consolidate the process of peace, discipline and progress and ensure stability. He said the electorates have given befitting reply to vested quarters in opting for progress and peace.

JP Emerges as Stronger Force

President Ershad said those who had not joined the polls have been isolated from the people and on the other hand Jatiya Party has emerged as a stronger force he said, through this political process, politics of Jatiya Party for promoting progress, peace and stability have advanced.

He spoke of the Jatiya Party objectives and said it will be the parliament members who will decide any change in the Constitution and hoped that JP Parliament members will advance the national objectives of the party.

Identifying the successes and failures of the third Parliament, the president said the last Parliament was successful in establishing the people's government and initiating constitutional process ending Martial Law agreeing on consensus to free educational arena from arms—brandishing.

He asserted that the people of the country do not want Martial Law, but a government of the people.

The president said, the weakness of the third Parliament was self contradiction on the part of the Opposition who failed to live up to the expectation of the electorate who voted them to end Martial Law for the establishment of a democratic government. He said these Opposition shed crocodile tears for democracy, but always act against the democratic process.

Refuting the Opposition allegation of non-participation of voters in the last polls President Ershad said if voters were not there, then they should have been with Opposition movement, but in reality, the Opposition movement have shrunk to Gulistan square and failing to win public support at home has shifted to foreign capitals lobbying against the nation.

He said it is a very sorry state of affairs on the part of the Opposition that they are now parleying in Washington, London and Moscow pursuing their conspiratorial role against the people and trying to win masters to back their political ends.

The President said Bangladesh has earned independence through a War of Liberation and it will live as a prestigious nation upholding its national heritage and culture. We have not fought liberation to be dictated by others but of course, we will welcome friends to be partners in progress.

Thailand Visit

Referring to his visit to Thailand, President Ershad said the warmth of feeling and honour shown to us there manifest the confidence of the friends to continue as partners in progress assuring the stability and political strength of the government.

/12223

Ershad on Problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts
46001406 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
23 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Ershad's Call To Solve Problems of CHT Thru' Talks"]

[Text] Dighinala (Khagrachari), Mar 22 (BSS): President H.M. Ershad today called for solving the problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts area through peaceful means and discussions.

Addressing a huge public meeting here, the President said it was not possible to have solution to problems by taking recourse to conflicts and malice.

He said his government had been making allout efforts to solve the problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts area and would continue its endeavours till the achievement of the ultimate objective of establishing peace there.

President Ershad hoped that those who had been misled would discard the path of terrorism and conflict and come to the path of discussion to bring about a permanent solution to the problems of the people of the Hill Tracts area.

The meeting was also addressed by the Chakma tribal chief Raja Debashish Roy local Area Commander and Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Area Development Board, Major General Abdus Salam, Chakma leader Upendra Lal Chakma, local Upazila Parishad Chairman Pijush Kanti Chakma and local Chakma leader Gayana Ranjan Chakma.

The President said we all were the sons of this soil and we must find out solutions to our problems within the framework of the Constitution and independence and sovereignty of the country. He said he was confident that the problems could be solved given the will and sincerity.

Referring to the discussion going on for the solution of the problems of the Hill Tracts area at his call, he said considerable progress had been achieved to that direction since all concerned had realised the fact that it was the only way to reach the goal.

He said none in the past had taken the step to solve this problem. "I have taken the initiative to solve the issue through discussion since I believe it from the core of my heart that it was the only path to reach the solution by avoiding conflict and malice, he said.

The President said some few thousands of our fellow countrymen had been staying in a foreign land and suffering there. He said congenial atmosphere had already been created so that they could come back to their homes and expressed the hope that the people of the area would cooperate with the government so that these people could come back to their own country soon.

He said the government was ready to undertake a survey on the ownership of lands in Hill Tracts area and if anybody was found to be dislodged from his land, it would be restored to him. In this context, he said, the government would provide security to the people of the Hill Tracts area so that they could live peacefully.

President Ershad said the people of Hill Tracts area had their own cultural heritage and we want to preserve that. He said his government had been making allout efforts to enrich further the culture, literature and other special aspects of their lives and continue this efforts to enrich them further.

He said he had made relentless efforts during the last six years of the rule of his government to improve the quality of life of the people. In this context, he said he had given priority to the Hill Tracts area by providing enhanced budget for its development. That was why development activities were better in the Hill Tracts area than other parts of the country he said.

The President said Hill Tracts area was lagging behind in development activities in the past and it was his government which had given due attention to the problems of the area and undertook huge development activities there. As a result, he said, all infrastructural facilities like roads, schools, colleges, hospitals, telephones and power supplies were available to the people of the area.

He said now that a peaceful and congenial atmosphere would have to be established so that this tide of development could be carried further. In this connection, he said those who had settled down in the Hill Tracts area for a long time from the plain land the local people should integrate them in their development efforts so that they could build the area together as brothers.

The president urged those who had been still pursuing the path of conflict and terrorism in the Hill Tracts area to refrain from such activities and integrate themselves

with the development activities of their area. They should work shoulder to shoulder with their fellow brethren to improve the quality of life of the people.

He said his government was aware of the requirements of development of the Hill Tracts area and would make allout efforts for improving the lot of the people of the area.

Addressing the meeting Chakma tribal chief Raja Debashish Roy said it was the government of President Ershad which had for the first time after the Independence of Bangladesh identified the problem of the people of the hill tracts area and taken initiative for their solution.

Local Area Commander and Chairman of Hill Tracts Development Board Major General Abdus Salam said settlement of the issues concerning the area could be achieved peacefully as per the provisions of the country's Constitution. He hoped that all concerned would come forward to extend their helping hand to attain this goal.

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Reportage on 7 Apr Foreign Ministry Press Briefing

TNV, Chakmas

46001412 Dhaka *THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER* in English 8 Apr 88 pp 1, 10

[Article: "No TNV Activists in Bangladesh"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam strongly refuted the Indian allegations of Bangladesh's assistance to the Tripura insurgents known as Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) and categorically denied about any existence of TNV activists inside Bangladesh border.

Talking at a Press briefing on Thursday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nazrul Islam said that the Government had no knowledge about TNV camps inside Bangladesh. Referring to a recent statement of Tripura Chief Minister S.R. Majumdar who [not further identified] of late admitted the existence of TNV camps in its territory, the Foreign Secretary rejected such assumption and asserted that it was a "figment of imagination".

He reiterated that Bangladesh was committed to India to cooperate in combatting the cross border insurgency between the two neighbours. "We always stand by our commitment", he asserted.

Dhaka Keen To Take Back Chakma Refugees

Referring to the return of Chakma refugees to Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) from across the Indian border, the Foreign Secretary reiterated that Bangladesh was always keen to take back its nationals in refugees camps

from Indian states of Tripura. He said that Bangladesh had always taken initiative to resolve the Chakma refugee issue with India. He however, refrained from commenting when asked whether Bangladesh would blame India for not cooperating in solving the issue. "We will not blame any one now as we are trying to solve the issue" he observed.

The Foreign Secretary pointed out that many more Chakma refugees had been returning everyday from the camps in Tripura as a climate of confidence and trust had been created due to substantive change now made in the living conditions of the tribal people in the CHT following the policies and programmes initiated by the National Committee on the Tribal People. He said that Chakma refugee issue was not a bilateral matter between Dhaka and New Delhi and he asserted that Bangladesh would take all steps to ensure the return of all its nationals now in refugee camps inside Indian borders.

Commenting on statements and comments by some of the Indian MPs and political parties regarding Bangladesh's move to make Islam as the state religion the Foreign Secretary said "Islam as Bangladesh's State Religion should cause no unnecessary misgivings anywhere". He said that Bangladesh had a record of communal harmony and peace which has no match in many countries of the world.

He observed that it was not uncommon for states to adopt one religion or another in conformity with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the people of that country. He cited examples in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia where they had state religion.

Repatriation for Pakistanis

46001412 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Apr 88 pp 1, 10

[Article: "Dhaka for Early Repatriation of Pak Nationals"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam on Thursday said that the maintenance of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh was a sheer burden on the national exchequer and he asserted that Pakistan Government should soon fulfil its moral and bounden duty by immediately repatriating its nationals from Bangladesh.

The Foreign Secretary in his weekly briefing session told newsmen that Bangladesh expected some positive outcome from the on-going talks between the Pakistan Government and Jeddah-based Rabitat-al-Alam-al-Islami regarding the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis. He regretted that still the Pakistani nationals stranded in Bangladesh could not be repatriated to Pakistan even after repeated requests and initiatives from Bangladesh Government.

The Foreign Secretary disclosed that Bangladesh spent Taka 122 crore for the maintenance of the stranded Pakistanis living in 81 camps in 13 districts since 1972 till December 1986. He informed that Bangladesh had been spending more than Taka 12 crore annually from its exchequer for the maintenance of the Pakistani national stranded in Bangladesh. He pointed out that Bangladesh was not receiving any external fund for this purpose since the United Nations High Commission for the Refugees stopped giving assistance for the stranded Pakistanis in 1974.

The Foreign Secretary told newsmen that 211,980 Pakistani nationals were said awaiting repatriation to Pakistan so far 126,941 had been repatriated in three phases in 1974, 1979 and 1982.

Asked whether Bangladesh would demand from Islamabad the money being spent for the maintenance of the stranded Pakistanis, the Foreign Secretary said that the matter would be discussed with the Pakistan Government.

He expressed the confidence that Pakistan would take immediate steps to repatriate its nationals from Bangladesh in a SARRC spirit.

State Religion

46001412 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: Declaration of Islam as State Religion Won't Affect Minorities"]

[Text] The government yesterday allayed fears in certain Indian quarters that declaration of Islam as state religion in the country would not affect other religious minorities, reports BSS.

"Religious and ethnic minorities in Bangladesh have been living in perfect communal harmony and peace", a Government statement said adding "Bangladesh" record in this regard should be a matter of envy for many others."

The statement released by Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam at a press briefing mentioned about President Ershad's recent announcement that Islam would be made the state religion and a bill would be brought in this regard in the coming session of the new parliament. It also contains President's disclosure that if necessary, a referendum will be held to ascertain public opinion in this regard.

The statement points itself to a joint statement by five political parties in India about declaring Islam as the state religion and speeches of some Parliament members there.

The statement says that an examination of the statements made by different Indian quarters on the issue seemed to convey the impression that there existed some confusion in them about the matter. The confusion has also been noticeable in the question-answer session in the Indian Parliament, it said.

"At the moment it can be pointed out that it is not uncommon for states to adopt one religion or another in conformity with the basic facts of those countries as their state or official religions in our own neighbourhood, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, etc. are cases in point, said the statement adding minorities in these countries are known to have lived and still living in peace and religious and communal harmony.

The statement mentioned that over 86 per cent of the population in Bangladesh are Muslims and as such, it is quite consistent with the reality to make Islam as the state religion. The decision should cause no unnecessary misgivings anywhere, it said.

Mr Nazrul Islam told newsmen that the present Government had taken manifold steps like the Hindu Welfare Trust for the benefits of the minorities.

/12223

Experts Affirm South Talpatty Part of Bangladesh
46001413 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
8 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: "S. Talpatty Part of Bangladesh, Experts Affirm"]

[Text] South Talpatty is a part of Bangladesh according to the international maritime law.

This was stated by the speakers at the inaugural session of the third convention '88 of National Oceanography and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) held at the auditorium of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Referring to the admiralty chart of England and the satellite picture Rear Admiral (Retd) M.H. Khan said that the mainstream of the Hariavanga river is flowing to the west of South Talpatty. As the mid-point of the mainstream is taken as the border line internationally in case of a border river, he said, the national flag of Bangladesh must be hoisted in South Talpatty. In this context, he presented a map of that part which was prepared in 1775 by an English oceanographer. The map shows that the mainstream of the Hariavanga river is flowing to the west of South Talpatty.

The experts later said that the sea area we are using at present is only one fourth of the total area which should be ours even if we take the west side of South Talpatty as our border line.

/12223

Visiting Experts Call Farakka a Failure

46001516 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Farakka Objectives Have Failed"]

[Text] Professor Kalyan Rudra and M.K.R. Bandyopadhyay, two professors of Calcutta University told an international symposium in Dhaka on Monday that the commissioning of Farakka barrage has failed to achieve its objective to maintain the navigability of Bhagirathi-Hugli river.

They said the Ganges was shifting to the western direction, at an alarming rate causing a serious threat to Calcutta port.

The 3-day international symposium on "Riverbank erosion, flood hazard and the problem of population displacement" was jointly organised by the Jahangirnagar University of Bangladesh, University of Manitoba, Canada, and the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud opened the symposium as the chief-guest. Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of JN Varsity presided over the inaugural session and Mr. Anthony Vincent, High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, Dr. Sitoo Mukherji, IDRC representative, Prof. Rogee of Manitoba University spoke on the occasion. The Indian Experts said the Padma was 6 km. away from the Bhagirathi in the year 1956 and 3.3 kms in 1966. It was now only one and a half km away from Bhagirathi.

They regretted that the Indian Government failed to check the erosion of the right bank of the Ganges though the Irrigation Minister assured the Parliament of effective measures.

They warned that when the Ganges and the Bhagirathi would meet all the Ganges water would flow into Bangladesh territory depriving India of the required water flow.

In a paper on the shifting characteristics of the Ganges in Bangladesh, Mr. M.M. Hossain of BUET said that the 125 kms area of the Ganges between its entry point into Bangladesh and its confluence with Brahmaputra (Jamuna) near Gualundo had decreased by 36 sq. kms in a period of 20 years. In 1956 the total area of the Ganges was 422 sq. kms and it stood at 386 sq. kms in 1976.

Mr. A. Mannan Asstt. Professor of Dept. of Geology and Mining of Rajshahi University said the shifting of the Ganges in Bangladesh and its western migration towards the Bhagirathi-Hugli river was related to the commissioning of the Farakka barrage.

The first session of the symposium was presided over by Prof. S. Safiullah and in his speech, he said "rivers cannot be controlled, we are the products of rivers, we have to live with these but should live scientifically."

In his inaugural speech, the Education Minister barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud said the Govt. was fully aware of the serious riverbank erosion problem and trying to find out ways to meet the situation. The government had taken concrete steps towards this direction, he said.

The Education Minister who was formerly the country's Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control for a considerable period said Bangladesh was crisscrossed by innumerable rivers and rivulets with seasonal floods and erosion and sedimentation process was becoming a part of country's woes for generations. But it was only recently that we had become more concerned with this problem as their consequences affected human habitat, wildlife, fisheries and other biological life in environment, he said.

The impact of riverbank erosion and flood hazards was sometimes devastating and unbearable, the Minister said and pointed out the important towns like Rajshahi, Kurigram, Serajganj, Chandpur, Khulna, Kustia, Faridpur, Madaripur, Maulvibazar, Sylhet, Habiganj, Bhairab Bazar were being increasingly affected every year. The curse of erosion made thousands of people lose their belongings and turned them rootless causing a big social problem.

A programme has already been launched for creating cluster villages in every upazila in the country for rehabilitating the landless and displaced families, Mr. Mahmud said.

The Canadian High Commissioner in his speech said his country had become increasingly involved with development of water resources and irrigation project in Bangladesh. Interaction between soil and irrigation was an important factor for development of Bangladesh.

In his presidential speech, the J.U. Vice-Chancellor said, the onrush of water from upstream drainage area could create havoc flooding about 80% of the country.

/12223

Revised Annual Development Plan for 1987-88 Approved

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English
8 Apr 88 p 1

[Article: Tk 4651 Cr Revised ADP]

[Text] The revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the current fiscal year (1987-88) has been fixed at Taka 4,651 crore, reports BSS.

The revised ADP is 7.83 per cent less than the original ADP of Taka 5,046 crore.

This cut was necessitated in view of the last unprecedented floods which caused damages to infrastructures and standing crops. As a result of the calamity, the national revenue budget had to meet unforeseen expenditures of a sizeable amount to fare the situation.

The revised ADP was given approval at an extended meeting of the Planning Commission held on Thursday at the Planning Commission auditorium with President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Vice President A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, members of the Planning Commission and concerned secretaries to the Government and officials.

Over and above, about taka 72 crore additional sanction is needed to support post flood rehabilitation and a few other emergency projects.

The distribution of fund sources for the revised ADP is Taka 1,832 crore from Government fund, Taka 175 crore from corporations fund and Taka 2,644 crore as project aid.

There are 828 projects including that of projects under technical assistance and corporation projects in the original ADP, while in the revised total number of projects have been set at 880.

Meanwhile, the 11-member committee headed by Planning Minister A.K. Khondokar, on upazila resources development and planning for eliminating poverty set up by the President in November last year submitted its report to the meeting.

The meeting also took note of the principles for formulating the next year's ADP and adopted an eight point guidelines for the purpose. These included decisions of not to adopt new projects financed wholly by our own resources excepting a few exceptional projects designed for poverty alleviation and creation of employment opportunity in the rural areas inclusion of foreign aided projects for which aid agreement already signed. The unproductive and long-term running projects of current year's ADP will not be included in the next year's ADP. The development projects in such sectors which have already been transferred to Upazila Parishad will not be included. The sanction for development of power sector will not be increased unless the system loss of Power Development Board is substantially reduced.

Meanwhile President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Thursday set four priority development sectors for implementing the Annual Development Programme (ADP) out of the eight objectives of his Government already announced by him.

These are: self reliance in food, rapid industrialisation with greater participation of the private sector, elimination of illiteracy and effective population planning.

The President outlined the guidelines for ADP in his opening remarks at the extended meeting of the Planning Commission held on Thursday at the Planning Commission conference room with him in the chair.

The meeting took a detail review of the current year's (1987-88) ADP and revised the ADP outlay and set the principles for formulating the next year's ADP.

President Ershad asked all the ministers to maintain close and effective monitoring of development projects under them in their implementation process to end unnecessary delay and cost hike of the projects.

He directed them to furnish him with monthly progress reports on the development project under them.

President Ershad mentioned the spectacular agriculture rehabilitation following the last floods and ascribed the success in this regard to the toiling farmers.

/12223

Reports Indicate Foreign Investment Low
46001404 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
21 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Article: Foreign Direct Investment Low"]

[Text] Implementation rate of sanctioned Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects has been one of the poorest one in Bangladesh among other Third World countries having similar demographic characteristics.

A good number of foreign investors whose investment proposals received formal sanctions over the post-independence period have backed out and their proposals are in most cases abandoned now.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) and affiliate-body of the World Bank dealing with FDI flows to the developing countries, has reported this.

In its latest report which is still in the draft form, the IFC points out that 90 FDI projects were accorded sanctions in Bangladesh since independence till 1986. This, together with 26 FDI units operating before independence, gave the total number of FDI projects or investments (sanctioned and operational) at 11. Out of these only 78 foreign firms run on-going concerns in Bangladesh. For 38 of such projects, full implementation is "far from reality". Thus, in reality, only 52 FDI units came up anew in the country in the last one and a half decades, giving an average annual of 3.5 units.

The available statistics from the Ministry of Industries showed that 22 joint venture projects involving a FDI component of 133 million US dollars received sanctions over the last one year period since the Investors Forum, held in January last year. Informed sources said that the situation relating to new FDI sanctions was in no way different from what the IFC reported on FDI in Bangladesh over the last one and a half decades till 1986.

IFC in its draft report said that only 58 percent of new FDI sanctions could be realised during the period under review. It indicated that FDI flows to Bangladesh over the seven year period (1980-86) totaled only 16.13 million US dollars, giving an annual average of 2.3 million dollars. In other developing countries, the FDI situation has been far-more encouraging

IEC cites the cases of Indonesia, Thailand, Egypt, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India and Pakistan to compare the FDI flows to Bangladesh. In Indonesia, annual average FDI flows stood at about 825 million US dollars over 1980-86 period. The situation in other countries during the same period, was as follows: Thailand 218 million US dollars, Egypt 210 million US dollars, the Philippines 64 million dollars, India 34 million dollars, Sri Lanka 20 million dollars and Pakistan-five million dollars.

FDI utilization rate against sanctions in Bangladesh has also been 'well below the experience of other Asian countries.' More distressing is the fact that such utilisation rate at 58 percent in Bangladesh was also below the 70 percent utilisation performance of local entrepreneurs in the country, according to the IFC report.

The report said that FDI stock (capital assets) in Bangladesh at book value in 1986 stood at 85.7 million only. The average value of such stock in other developing countries, as was cited by IFC, was 2.4 billion dollars which were twenty times larger than that of Bangladesh. And, book value of stock again represented an inaccurate comparative picture since it is, as pointed out in IFC's report, lower than actual replacement cost for the related stock.

IFC mentioned in its report that the Second Investors Forum held in Dhaka in January 1987 was by and large a failure in attracting FDIs. Those who joined the Forum were largely the representatives of foreign suppliers, not foreign investors.

Bangladesh, according to IFC, obtained only 0.3 percent of FDI resources compared to an average nine percent accounted for by the other developing countries under mention in the report.

IFC states that Bangladesh's failures to attract FDI to a sizeable extent cannot be explained away in terms of exogenous factors like adverse global economic trend,

debt crisis, low commodity prices, mounting protectionism, etc. "The reasons why foreign firms have failed to invest significantly higher amounts must be found closer to home" it notes.

IFC observes Bangladesh has "a very serious image problem among foreign investors as most business people view the country as one of the least developed nations, plagued by diseases, overpopulation, malnutrition, unrest and typhoons. These alone are enough to keep many foreign investors away."

In addition, IFC says that foreign investors are concerned about the maintenance of law and order, the continuity of government institutions and philosophy and anything else that might adversely affect the firm's output.

While pointing out that there is more potential for FDI in Bangladesh than has been realised thus far, IFC observes that specific investment policies and institutions of Bangladesh are not effective in facilitating FDIs. It mentions 'vagueness' and 'confusion' relating to government's objectives about FDI, inadequacy of information to potential investors, cumbersome project screening process, complex and time consuming project implementation process diverse and ineffective incentives, etc. as the constraints for FDI attraction.

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Group of 200 Indians Attacks Border Post
46001409 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English
2 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Article by Faraji Ajmal Hussain: "Indians Attack Benapole BOP"]

[Text] Benapole (Jessore), Apr 1: A Bangladesh border outpost at Benapole came under heavy attack from Indians numbering about 200 reportedly armed with deadly weapons.

The local BDR authorities lodged strong protest with their BSF counterpart across the border and immediately sought flag meeting to ease the tension. The BSF side agreed to the proposal for a flag meeting to be held at 10 am tomorrow.

The incident occurred when a group of Bangladeshi passport holders was coming from across the border and had a brawl with the porters. The Indians took the side of porters and started harassing the Bangladeshis.

The BDR intervened and forced the Indians to retreat to their own territory.

At this stage, about 200 Indians armed with lethal weapons reappeared on the scene and attacked the border outpost.

The five BDR men who manned the outpost took position inside the trench. The Indians retreated when reinforcement from the BDR company headquarters came to the spot.

Tension was prevailing in the border and all trade along the border line came to a halt following the incident.

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IRAN

Pan-Iranism Party Leader Condemns U.S. Attack on Oil Facilities

46400112c London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] In Paris, Mohsen Pezeshkpur, the leader of the Pan-Iranism Party of Iran, issued a press release in which he condemned U.S. aggression against Iranian oil installations and naval units.

In this statement, he severely criticized U.S. measures, and added that the U.S. claim that Iran mined the waters of the Persian Gulf has not been confirmed by any neutral authority, and is consequently no more than a pretext. Pezeshkpur added: Those who imagine that the opposition of the people to the current government can undermine our nation's will to defend the country by defeating and punishing aggressors are badly mistaken. In this statement, he sharply criticized the United Nations for its silence in the face of the dangerous developments in the Persian Gulf.

9310

Journalist Denounces American Attack

46400112b London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Following the recent events in the Persian Gulf and the attack by U.S. naval vessels on Iranian oil installations and forces in this area, Amir Taheri, a famous Iranian writer and journalist, discussed the events in this sensitive area in a talk given at a Paris press club.

Amir Taheri said: It is not in the interest of the West to align itself with Iraq against Iran at this sensitive time.

He added: The West must realize that in today's Iran there are two parallel realities. One is the Iranian nation, which has no enmity with the West, the other is the movement of the ayatollahs, who are Iran's enemies as well. To strike a blow at the ayatollahs, one must not strike Iran.

Taheri added: The attack by U.S. naval forces on Iran's oil installations and warships is open aggression.

The pretext of mine-laying, which was used to justify this action, is not acceptable, because it is not clear what group laid the mines, and it is probable that an extremist anti-Iranian group had a hand in it.

He said: The foreign powers must know that they cannot solve the question of Iran's future government by imposing a military defeat on Iran. The Iranian nation will resolve this issue.

Concerning the events on the Faw Peninsula, Taheri said: Recent events on the peninsula have no military significance, because the occupation of this peninsula was no more than a political show in the first place. The outcome of the war will not be determined at Faw; it will be determined at the fronts in northern and central Iran and Iraq.

At the conclusion of this talk, Amir Taheri answered questions from foreign correspondents based in Paris on the war, the situation in the Persian Gulf, and Iranian affairs.

9310

Shipping Co. Reportedly Has 89 Ships
46000134a Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in
English 10 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] Tehran, March 9 (Kayhan Int'l)—The Central News Bureau (CNB) reported here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Shipping Company has a total number of 89 freighters, of which 69 are ocean liners, with a total capacity of transporting 10,000,000 tons of goods, annually.

CNB, quoting transportation industry magazine, reported that the company would also try to boost the activities of Iran-India Shipping Company.

"Besides," the magazine said, "Plans were under way for joint operations with the Soviet, Turkish, Pakistani and Arab states shipping companies in the Persian Gulf area."

07310

Night Shooting Range Device Made in Mashhad
46000134b Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in
English 10 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] Tehran, Mar 9 (Kayhan Int'l)—The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), in a dispatch from Mashhad (capital of Khorassan Province) reported that an electronic device for controlling night shooting range was designed and made by an inventor from Engineering Battalion of Khorassan's Samenol Aemeh 77th Division.

The designer of the device told IRNA that cost of an Australian imported one used to be \$6m.

"The Iranian-made electronic device for controlling night shooting range is manufactured with a total investment of \$71,000 (Rls. 500,000)," he added.

He said that 80% of the parts were made in Iran.

At the present time, the device is installed at one of the shooting ranges in Mashhad and being used by the division," IRNA said.

07310

U.S. Role in Persian Gulf Questioned
46400112a London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Apr 88 p 6

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Most of the policies of the various U.S. administrations concerning Iran have been a mixture of extravagance and waste. This is especially true of the policies and procedures of Mr Reagan's administration. As a result, the fanning of the flames of the recent Persian Gulf crisis must be chiefly studied from this angle. The attacks by U.S. ships and aircraft on Iran's oil platforms and naval units exceeded its limits as a response in kind to alleged mine-laying by revolutionary guards—being much harsher—and this truth is nothing more than what we could call the fear that Mr Reagan still has of the phantom of Irangate.

Let there be no mistake, we have never supported and do not support the irresponsible operations of the Khomeyni regime. However, this cannot keep us from stating the truth and protesting the foolish acts of Mr Reagan's government. The attack on Iran's oil platforms and the foolish attacks on Iran's naval units were not justifiable by any logic and cannot be supported under international law.

Mr Reagan's administration has no excuse other than to claim that the United States is the world's policeman, but it is not, and no authority has given the United States such a responsibility.

What is the United States really doing in the Persian Gulf? This is a logical question for which we have yet to obtain a logical answer. The fact that the incompetent and unpopular Khomeyni regime also voices this question at times is not an argument against the question itself. There is no reason for the presence of naval forces of the United States, the Soviet Union or other nations in the Persian Gulf other than that these nations are hoping to take advantage of a confused situation. The reality shows that today the Persian Gulf is no more secure than it was when the great powers had not yet brought in their naval forces. So, what are they doing in the Persian Gulf?

At the invitation of one of the region's coastal nations, the U.S. government reflagged a number of that government's tankers under its own flag and has now brought

its fleet to the area to protect the security of those tankers. To this point, U.S. responsibility is just to protect ships bearing its own national flag. In other words, the United States has not taken on the responsibility of protecting international shipping in general in this waterway, it only has the mission of protecting the ships bearing its own flag. This is the situation in practice as well, because the Americans have not reacted to attacks on ships bearing the flags of other nations. The United States has not accepted a mission from the international community to protect security in the region.

However, the United States has entered an area that is a battlefield between two independent countries, Iraq and Iran. The United States and all the other nations who have officially announced their neutrality in this war must in any case be aware of the dangers in the region. The primary factor in the creation of the crisis from the very beginning was the Ba'thist regime of Iraq. Baghdad's leaders have used every possible means to bring others into the war. They especially have attacked defenseless civilian shipping and this matter has never been condemned. The Iraqis have also pressured the small Arab nations of the region to make their facilities available to Baghdad.

In every instance, the Khomeyni regime has simply responded in kind, even though its policies have unfortunately have been so stupid and ill-considered that they have never been able to convey the legitimacy of Iran's positions. In a great many instances Iraq has stopped the movement of Iranian oil tankers, and these tankers are probably legitimate targets under international law, but Iraq transports its oil through the use of neutral shipping, or through governments exporting oil on Iraq's behalf but using tankers bearing neutral flags. Clearly, such acts are violations of neutrality, and they give Iran the right to respond.

Under these conditions, foreign forces have swarmed into the Persian Gulf. None of these forces had an international mandate, they came into this waterway only on the pretense of guarding their own flag. If they had an international mission, they would have to answer to Iraq's illegal actions as well, and we know that they have done no such thing. Very simply, we must say that not only the United States, but the Soviet Union and the other nations who have gotten involved in the Iran-Iraq war are aiding Iraq in practice, and this is a violation of neutrality. We do not defend the stupid and sometimes shameful acts of the Khomeyni regime, and in reality we the Iranian nation have suffered more than anyone at the hands of this unpopular regime. However, we also regard any kind of aid to the aggressor, Iraq, as ugly and reprehensible.

In any case, U.S. attacks on Iranian targets must be condemned. As a responsible government, the United States must not do anything in the Persian Gulf which would benefit Iraq. If it is U.S. policy to end the war, its

actions are not suitable for ending the war. Iran's vital installations cannot be burned because mines are found. When an area turns into a battlefield, neutral forces should not go there, and if they do, they must accept the dangers without stepping outside of their neutrality. U.S. actions and policies do not conform to its neutral position.

Sooner or later the Iranian nation will rid itself of the unpopular Khomeyni regime. The United States as well as the Soviet Union and all other nations must realize that during these dark moments of its history, the Iranian nation will never forget their injustices. The Iranian nation is equally disgusted both by aid that sustains the Khomeyni regime and by aid to an aggressor like the Ba'thists of Iraq. Khomeyni and Saddam Huseyn will go, but the Iranian nation will remain; one must be mindful of that day.

9310

PAKISTAN

Commentary Views Debate on Sind
46560027 Karachi JANG (Supplement) in Urdu
21 Mar 88 p b

[Article by Mukhtar Aqil: "Talk of Governor's Rule in Sind"]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, addressing the Muslim League Parliamentary Party's meeting in September 1986, said that some members of Sind Assembly were unilaterally criticizing the government and holding it responsible for not maintaining law and order, but the members of the Assembly that have been criticizing the government should also advise as to how the conditions in Sind can be improved.

More than a year and a half has passed since the prime minister expressed these sentiments, but until now members of this Sind Assembly haven't come up with any valuable suggestions. But during the current National Assembly session, the situation in Sind, and more particularly that in Karachi has once again been the topic of heated debates. The debate that ensued on the motion of no-confidence proposed by Muzaffar Hashmi and Usman Ramz, both members of the Assembly belonging to the Jamaat-e Islami, and the statement issued by the federal Minister of Interior Naseem Ahmed Obair on behalf of the official party prompted some circles in Sind to describe it as an indication of an attempt to introduce governor's rule in Sind. But despite Naseem Ahmed's efforts to reject the presumptions by news correspondents regarding the "governor's rule," the way some of the National Assembly members belonging to Sind demanded the intervention of the center in the affairs of the province has strengthened these suspicions further.

The speech delivered by the interior minister and the insistence of some of the Sind Assembly members on intervention by the center in provincial politics has created an upheaval. Various political and parliamentary groups have started issuing statements criticizing the proposed intervention by the center. S. Mujahid Baloch, the provincial minister for local bodies and temporary settlements made it clear during an impromptu press conference that the Sind Assembly members will oppose any intervention by the federal government and that the provincial government was fully capable of managing its own affairs. A group of six members of the provincial Assembly consisting of Malik Hanif, Hafiz Mohammad Taqi, Zubair Akram Nadeem, Habib Hashmi, Ghani Soomroo and Athar Siddiqui assembled in the office of the provincial minister and general secretary of Sind Muslim League, Al haj Shami-muddin, and issued a statement strongly criticizing those responsible for proposing a motion of no-confidence in the national assembly. They said that the recent speech delivered by the interior minister had hurt the feelings of the people of Sind and added that the conditions in Karachi and Sind can be improved by expressions of open-heartedness and providing resources for solving the problems and not by taking recourse to strong measures. They said there are only 12,000 policemen in Karachi for enforcing law and order, whereas in our neighboring country India, Delhi with about the same population is controlled by a police force consisting of 45,000 men. An increase in the number of police is also a victim of fund shortage. In order to prevent crimes in the province, first of all it is necessary to ease the unemployment situation. Further, the central government will have to give sympathetic attention to completing development projects on time and special funds will have to be provided for improving water, electricity and transportation facilities.

These members of the Sind provincial assembly have also requested the prime minister to issue strict instructions to the federal departments concerned to work for the welfare of the people who are victims of frustration and deprivations, and for development and prosperity. The genuine population of Karachi is no less than 10 million by any means but the projects are planned for half the population only. (According to the 1981 census the population of Karachi 5,400,000.)

The members of Sind assembly belonging to the Muslim League and Nizam-e Mustafa group criticizing those responsible for proposing the resolution of no-confidence in the national assembly said that these people in their capacity as good citizens should play their proper role as intermediaries to impress upon the center to

fulfill its commitments to provide resources and they should not hold democratic institutions responsible for performing their duties without the needed resources. Only people who lack a sense of democracy will behave in this manner, and people who think like that cannot be expected to act democratically. Dr Athar Qureshi, general secretary of Jamaat-e Islami Sind and member of provincial assembly, responding to the leader of the ruling party called the debate held in the national assembly on improving conditions in Sind as appropriate. According to him, because of the dangerous situation caused by law and order breakdown and murders for the last three years, honor, life and property of decent citizens are not safe. Due to constant curfew, some areas are called "curfew colonies." The house of Muzaffar Hashmi, a member of national assembly, becomes a target of firing and murderous assault, and political workers are kidnapped. These actions have made it impossible for the people to live in peace. [Dr Qureshi said] under these circumstances it is the constitutional duty of the central government to liberate the province from this plight, but its aim should not be to dissolve the provincial assembly.

The various circles participating in the parliamentary debate on the conditions in Sind held on to their respective points of view. The leaders of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement said that Sind was independent in its internal affairs and intervention by the center in any form was detrimental to the interests of Sind. MQM made the motion of no-confidence proposed by its traditional adversary the Jamaat-e Islami, its target of criticism. MQM asked why the members who based their motion on the attack on a member of the assembly did not think of murder, assault, destruction and arson in Qasbah, Orangi, Aligarh Colony, Shah Faisal Colony, Liaquatabad, Nazimabad and North Karachi and how those members could close their eyes to the excesses and repressive actions of the police.

As against this Jamaat-e Islami circles said that the attack on Muzaffar Hashmi's house was given as an example and it reflected the prevailing conditions in Sind which the province government had failed to bring under control.

Despite the differences of views between the supporters and critics of the Sind provincial government, both sides agreed that the conditions in the province, and particularly in Karachi, were not normal and demanded the immediate attention of the central government on the administrative or economic level.

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